



STRALIAN AND BRITISH

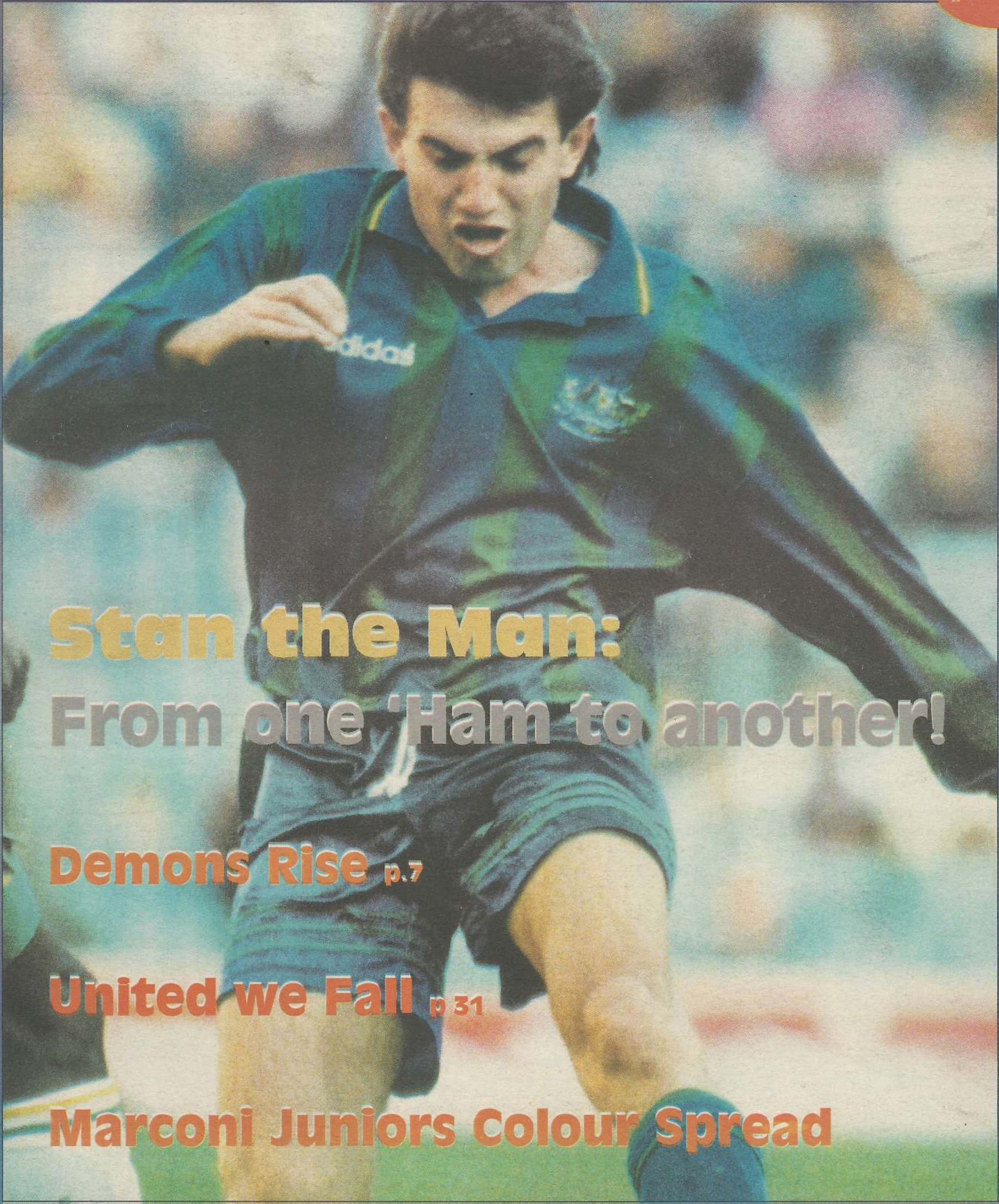
SOCCER

VOL. 20 No. 942 • TUESDAY 3 AUGUST 1999

• REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIAN POST • PUBLICATIONS No. NBQ5726

WEEKLY

\$3.00



Stan the Man:
From one 'Ham to another!

Demons Rise p.7

United we Fall p.31

Marconi Juniors Colour Spread

SOCCER WEEKLY

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

5-13 Garners Ave., Marrickville NSW 2204.

Tel (02) 9562-0559 (Direct Line) Fax (02) 9550-9332

E-mail: soccerweekly@hotmail.com

Published every Tuesday by FLP Pty Ltd. 5-13 Garners Ave., Marrickville NSW 2204

DISTRIBUTION

NSW/ACT: FLP Pty Ltd. 5-13 Garners Ave, Marrickville NSW 2204. Tel: (02) 9562-0500

VICTORIA: FLP Pty Ltd. 72-78 Gipps Street, Collingwood. 3066. Tel: (03) 9486-9522 Fax: (03) 9486-9858

QUEENSLAND: Queensland Newspaper Campbell St, Bowen Hills Qld. 4006 Tel: (07) 3252-6011

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Advertiser Newspaper Ltd. Waymouth St, Adelaide SA 5000 Tel: (08) 8218-9329

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Pan Hellenic Emporium, 67 James Street, Perth WA 6000. Tel: (08) 9328-4779

ACTING EDITOR:Daniel Giorelano

SCANDISK:Alex Stafakas

LAYOUT CO-ORDINATOR:A.D. Akrotos

COLOUR SCANS:Bill Hawthorne

LAYOUT/SETTING:Mary Quartly, Alamita Vea

FILM PLANNING:Nick Rekounis, Nick Phillips

CORRESPONDENTS

Dwyght Tuffnell (Melbourne), Glenn Davis (Brisbane), Richard Kreider (Perth), Graham Cooke (Canberra).

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: Roy Hay, Janene Mar, The Four Diegos, Mark Stravroulakis.

STAFF REPORTER: John Economos

Recommended and maximum price: \$3.00

* All material appearing in Australian and British Soccer Weekly is copyright and reproduction in any form whatsoever is expressly forbidden without the written permission of the publisher.

The publisher accepts no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts, illustrations or photographic material.

♦ Deadline for contributions, articles and advertising is 3 days PRIOR to issue date.

THIS WEEK...

3Australian News
4Australian News
5Good Oil
6Australian Features
7Australian Features
8Australian Features
9Australian Features
10NSW Super League
11Soccer Woman
12Victorian Leagues
13Victoria Premier League
14Queensland
15Soccer Canberra
16MARCONI JUNIORS
17MARCONI JUNIORS

18Global Game Cover
19Asia
20North America
21South America
22Africa
23Italy
24Europe
25Europe
26Europe
27UK
28UK
29UK
30UK
31UK

REMINDER

HAVE YOU TOLD CHANNEL 7 THAT YOU WANT
BETTER SOCCER COVERAGE?

*E-mail by going to www.seven.com.au/sportsworld and
clicking on E-mail for their automated feedback sheet

*Fax 02 98777888

*Write to Bruce McAvaney at PO Box Epping, NSW 2121

Remember, Soccer won the survey for most popular
football code in their recent Net site poll.

MEXICO INTO CUP FINAL

Hosts Mexico have qualified for the final of the
Confederations Cup tournament with a 1-0 win over
the United States.

The winner was scored by Blanco in extra-time under
the 'Golden Goal' rule to put the Mexicans into the final.



Mia Hamm ... One of the stars in the US team which is coming to Australia in December.

In a major boost for Soccer in Australia, yet another top
quality side will travel to our shores to play our countries
finest.

The United States will travel to our shores to play in a
tournament. Now before you say the United States aren't the best
team in the world and that they finished last in France 98, the US
team are coming to Australia are in fact the best in the World.

The World Cup-winning United States women's national team
will represent their country here in Australia later this year in
December in a round robin series.

The series will involve the hosts Australia, former world
champion Norway, the Czech Republic and of course the US.

This will be a major boost for Australian soccer to see the
World Champions, a team that grabbed the imaginations and the
hearts of millions of people in the recent World Cup.

This will go some way to achieving a higher profile for
women's soccer in Australia especially following the
disappointing World Cup which the Matildas had in America.

Out of the three games the Matildas played, the team failed to
win a game.

They got off to a very bad start as they drew with Ghana, a
team that they were expected to easily defeat and from that, the
wheels fell off the cart.

The series will hopefully get a lot of media support as well as
good crowd attendances.

Crowds for last month's World Cup were in many of the
games, bigger than the attendances witnessed at the Men's
World Cup which was held in the US in 1994.

The tour of the US Down-Under will give local crowds the
chance to see the World Champions in the flesh, and witness the
best women's player on the planet, Mia Hamm.

And what about the mouthwatering prospect of seeing Murray
versus Mia.

Julie Murray is off course Australia's most highest profiled

US AND NORWAY TO COME TO AUSTRALIA

player and one of the best finishers in the women's game.

Her tussle with Hamm should be one to watch during the
series in December.

However the other two teams are no easy beats especially
Norway who qualified for the Semis in the recent World Cup.

Norway was the defending World Cup champions going into
the World Cup and they looked on course until they were
smashed by China.

Although Australia had a bad World Cup, the chance to
avenge some revenge and show that they are amongst the best in
the world will surely spur on the team and make this one of the
best women's soccer tournaments to be ever held in Australia.

The exact dates of the games has yet to be announced.



Julie Murray ... expected to lead Australia's charge in
the tournament to be held later this year.



Steve McManaman has made his debut for Spanish giants, Real Madrid. For all the
news from Europe and the rest of the world, turn to page 18 and the Global section.

Australian News

BLACKTOWN DEMONS RISE TO CLAIM NSW SUPER LEAGUE TITLE



Blacktown City Demons are the 1999 NSW Super League champions following their 5-1 win over Parramatta.

Blacktown City Demons are the NSW Super League champions following their 5-1 thrashing of Parramatta Eagles in Sunday's Grand Final at Marconi Stadium.

The game was not the best ever but it was a close tussle until the final 20 minutes when Blacktown ran wild scoring three goals.

Joe Angelucci was the star for the Demons as his double gave Blacktown an avenue to which to attack and the young striker made no mistake in front of goal with calm but deadly finishing.

Trailing by two goals at halftime seemed to spur Parramatta and a goal to Mark Revely in the 68th minute looked to be the start of the Eagles rivalry but

it was not to be for the underdogs.

A second to Angelucci followed by goals to Damien Smith and Aaron Holst made the game safe for Blacktown when at one stage it looked as though the tide had turned.

Following the game, Blacktown City coach Brian Brown was delighted with his charges but he was not completely sure of the teams win until the final few minutes of the match.

"Even at 2-0 at halftime, I felt just a couple of mistakes and we could be in danger," said Brown.

Brown was also wary of the way that the team slackened off during the finals and said that the week off before the

final was probably more of a negative aspect than a positive one.

Brown's first year at the helm of the Demons was a magic year as the team swept all before them to retain the title that they won last year.

Parramatta Eagles were the hottest club in the finals series as they twice escaped out of jail, especially in their thrilling semi-final, extra-time win although the teams fairytale came to an end as for the Eagles it was third time unlucky.

Eagles Coach, Roberto Viera however was a graceful loser and offered no excuses to his teams loss.

"It was an even game at first but in the second half, our markers didn't do their job well.

"I believe that in the first 20 minutes we had chances, chances we didn't

take which you must."

Blacktown were the best side in the competition all season and they displayed their complete dominance of the league in the final.

In the lower grades, The Macarthur Rams won the Under 21 division in a high scoring 8-4 win over the Bonnyrigg White Eagles.

For the full match report and comments after the game, turn to page 7

Whilst the clubs top team lost their final, the Parramatta Eagles did manage to win one title on the day in the other grand final played on Sunday as the Under 18 side defeated the Macarthur Rams by 3-0.



UTS SYDNEY OLYMPIC SFC

Invite talented soccer players born on or after 1/1/81 to trial for the 1999/2000

National Youth League Team

VENUE:

Cooke Park, Belfield

DATES:

Wednesday 4th August

Friday 6th August

TIME:

6.00pm Sharp

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
CHRIS BOUZANIS ON

0418 511 488

Proud sponsors of



Registered No: 12229333

LEICHHARDT TIGERS SOCCER CLUB INC.

COACH — 1st Grade
COACHES — Cadet & Super League 2000

Leichhardt Tigers Soccer Club is seeking applications from accredited Level 2 coaches for its 1st Grade position. Coaches without accreditation and who intend to be accredited will be considered.

Coaches also required for the U11, U12, U13, U14, U15 and U16s Cadet and Super Youth League positions.

Coaches also required for the Club's Ladies teams to compete in the NSW Super Womens Competition.

Applications, accompanied by a written résumé including soccer background, are to be forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer, Leichhardt Tigers Soccer Club Inc to the address shown below by 16 August 1999.

Faxed applications are acceptable on 9565 2050.

All Applications will be handled with the strictest of confidence.

Leichhardt Tigers is proudly sponsored by
APIA and Barilla Pasta
Leichhardt Tigers Infoline 9565 2299

Postal Address:
P.O. Box 225 HABERFIELD NSW 2045
Fax: (02) 9565-2050

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR COACHES, PLAYERS
OR OFFICIALS FOR YOUR CLUB AND ARE
INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING WITH
AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY.**

**ABSW STILL GOING STRONG AFTER
19 YEARS.**

WELL WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR!

CALL JOHN NOW

(02) 9744 6984

Australian News

CARLTON DO IT TOUGH

By Roy Hay

It took Ericsson Cup giants Carlton until the 80th minute before it managed to edge ahead of a Geelong representative select to win by two goals to one at Bell Park Sports Club on Sunday.

Geelong's young team was never overawed by a Carlton line-up which included Scottish international stopper Dave McPherson.



David McPherson, Carlton's new signing.

Formerly with Glasgow Rangers and Heart of Midlothian McPherson has twenty-seven caps, and Carlton is looking to him to add an aerial threat in attack in addition to his defensive role.

But it was Geelong which took the lead after 15 minutes when Scott Davison, part of an outstanding midfield, slotted a ball through for Troy Hardy to beat Carlton keeper Dean Anastasiadis.

The advantage lasted only three minutes and from Ljubo Lapsansky's corner-kick Brazilian striker Alex Moreira hit the underside of the bar and the ball was over the line before youngster Tony Ouliaris made certain it hit the back of the net.

Carlton also deployed Andrew Packer recently signed from Brisbane and several of the youngsters from last year's youth team.

Cedo Rakic then knocked the ball down for Geelong youngster Steven Nikolovski who had

to make an awkward volley but got it on target only for Anastasiadis to save.

Davison then cleverly lobbed the ball over the defence, but the keeper got to the ball just ahead of Rakic.

Tony Sobeviski, David Cuell and later Hector Nunez forced their Carlton opponents to fight for every ball, while Brad Hardy, Martin Colak, from Altona City, and Lou Stefanovski were tight at the back.

Behind them Tim Kellett was a rock in goal, and substitute teenager Aaron Pettmann pulled off a couple of good, brave saves, but could do nothing about Lapsansky's winner volleyed into the top corner with ten minutes to go.

Carlton lost defender Con Anthopoulos with a rib injury near the end, but Geelong's players could take enormous credit from this performance.

Coach Stuart Munro gave himself a run near the end and when asked what he had learned from the match said we need to have a substitute on the bench at the end, a reference to the gap which existed when Anthopoulos had to go off.



Scott Davison (11) of Geelong runs away from Andrew Marth of Carlton.

GLORY SNARE YOUNG SOCCEROO STAR

By Richard Kreider

Kasey Wehrman, one of Australia's hottest properties, has moved from Brisbane to sign a three year contract with Perth Glory.

It is a major coup for the Western Australian club and one Glory coach Bernd Stange is over the moon about.

Stange, who returned from Germany the day before Thursday's press conference at Perry Lakes said he first saw the potential of the powerful midfielder when Perth played Brisbane Strikers at Suncorp Stadium in October last season.

"Kasey is a class player with a big future and I am very pleased to have him here in Perth", said Stange.

Wehrman may have signed a three year deal, but it is highly unlikely he will stay that long since his intentions are to head overseas as soon as practicable.

The industrious midfielder came in for Vince Grella in the second of the recent Australia - Manchester United games and emerged as one of the best on-field performers.

"My ultimate goal is to play overseas, but the Olympics are just around the corner and Perth Glory will benefit me during that time," said Wehrman who turns 22 in a fortnight.

"The professional set up here is just what I need. It is as close to an overseas club as any NSL club has achieved. Brisbane hasn't moved fast enough since they won the Ericsson Cup in 1996/7.

Soccer is my future and I could nothing around waiting for them," he said.

"The training is very hard here under Bernd and that is something I need."

Stange stated it was too early to decide where in midfield to play him, but Wehrman himself indicated he would be happy to play wherever the coach puts him.

Meanwhile, midfielders James Afkos and Tony Carbone will be invited to the pre-season training which starts today (Tuesday), but their future with Glory is not certain.

"No club will sign players with bad injuries and Perth Glory is no exception," said Stange who was referring to injuries the players picked up last season.

It is believed South Melbourne and Gippsland Falcons have expressed and interest in the pacy Afkos who was once considered for Olympic selection.

He suffered a bad knee ligament injury in last season's opening game against Adelaide City which sidelined him for the rest of the competition.

Kasey Wehrman

Born: 16 August 1977
Position: Midfield
Height: 1.8m
Weight: 75kg
Former clubs: Accica Ridge, Qld Academy of Sport, Ipswich Knights, Brisbane Strikers.
Representative Honours:
 Young Socceroos 4 games
 Olyroos 12 games
 Socceroos 6 games

GOOD OIL ...

By John Economos

Seven member clubs in the NSW Super League are about to have a real clash with the management of the NSW Soccer Federation regarding recent proposed changes to the competition next season.

It seems that the NSW Federation has already passed a decision that as from next season for the Super League division, there will only be two teams per club.

They are to be the First Grade and an Under 19s.

In other words, the Under 21s and Under 18s competitions are to be scrapped and replaced with only the Under 19s.

The unhappy clubs have already met and voted 7-5 against the Federation's new decision.

All the Super League clubs were faxed last Friday by the Federation that its decision would be irreversible.

It appears that the disgruntled Super League clubs have largely not been extended a real opportunity themselves to seriously discuss and assist in making a correct and constructive decision.

The grieving clubs believe that this Federation change automatically will have most serious repercussions on two age groups. Those of the Under 15s as well as the Under 18s.



Jean Paul de Marigny has made a comeback to Marconi.

The former international French speaking sweeper and flank defender, has been appointed as the new Technical Director of Coaching, in charge of Marconi's Youth development portfolio.

The Brisbane Strikers at the Royal Brisbane Show ('at the EKKA'), will include a free copy of this week's ABSW in their Showbags.

This will be the fifth year the Strikers will have a stand in the Showbag Pavilion at the 'EKKA', and this year expect to sell at least 3,000 showbags.

Available will be all the latest Strikers' and National merchandise for purchase as well as Manchester United products.

More than 700,000 people are anticipated to attend this year's 'EKKA' starting this Thursday (August 5th) and stretching over 10 days.

The Strikers' head coach and former Australian World Cup captain, John Kosmina, with his players, will be in attendance at the Strikers' Stand during the Show.

The Strikers' Showbag valued at \$110 each but costing a most modest \$11, is exceptional value to say the least.

The special Strikers' Soccer Showbag



John Kosmina ... At the Strikers' Stand this week at the Brisbane Show.

is stacked with goodies such as: a Junior Season Strikers' Match pass, Poster, Strikers' drink bottle, Strikers' Junior 10cm sponge Soccer ball, 'Goal' Soccer biscuits, Socceroos badge, 30g pkt Nature's Earth cheese rings, 250ml Berri Fruit Juice, Fruit Twig bar, Snickers choc bar, a copy of this week's ABSW, a XXXX Premier Soccer League Family pass, 100g Jelly Beans, plus discount vouchers to the 'Anfield Sports Shop' - Your One Stop Soccer Shop. No, there are no steak knives.

The Queensland Soccer Federation last night (Monday) staged a special presentation evening to honour no less than five outstanding Queenslanders as members to Soccer Australia's 'Hall Of Fame'.

The 'Hall Of Fame' was established to recognise special and outstanding contributors, for the growth and development of Soccer in Australia on a national scale, in areas of both on as well as off the pitch.

Staged at the Federation's

headquarters Perry Park, Q.S.F. president Wallace Dann presented awards to Pam Gilbert (Cleveland), Cliff Sander (Maroochydore), Des Miles (Mickelton), Graham McMillan (Ekibin) and Gordon ('Bunny') Nunn (Paradise Point).

Marconi's Under 11s and Under 12s recently returned from a hugely successful tour of Brisbane, and not only for their on-pitch performances.

The Marconi Under 11s and 12s set up their training and camp base in Coolangatta, but played all their matches at Brisbane City's homeground at Newmarket.

Unknowningly, the young ones heavily promoted their Club's name as well as that of major sponsor, Brescia Furniture, right along the Gold Coast corridor to Brisbane.

Remaining undefeated in all of their six exhibition matches played, the young 'Marconi warriors' also stood out everywhere they went with their striking tracksuits with 'Brescia Furniture' emblazoned across the back.

See ABSW's special feature in centre-colour spread.

Sportswell Tours of Sydney, for their 'Classic Champions Sport' are now inviting teams to enter for the 'Fiji 5s Soccer' in the last week of October.

All interested teams must contact Mr Roger Wellings of 'Sportswell Tours' in Sydney on 02-9212-5080 or fax for more information on 02-9212-4266.

Squads depart for Fiji October 23rd.

Short sharp and exciting "Fiji 5s Soccer" is all about having 5 players on the pitch with reserves at will.

Men's, Women's & Mixed teams (min 2 men 2 women) for a three day Round Robin tournament in Fiji as well as enjoying a fabulous holiday in the tranquil tropics.

The 'Classic Champions-Fiji 5s Soccer' competition and holiday (October 23rd to 29th 1999) staying at the plush Warwick Hotel on the Coral Coast, comes with packages costing only \$1,399.

Packages include all sports costs, prizes, transfers and social occasions.

Other sports on the same week at the same Hotel, include Touch Rugby, Netball and Tennis.

Team entries are limited so act this week or as soon as possible.

This package is carefully designed to offer you, your partner and team mates absolute fun, excitement, and the very best balance between Soccer, sport, and relaxation in friendly Fiji.

More details from above contact numbers at Sportswell Tours of Sydney.

GOOD OIL ... GOOD OIL ... GOOD OIL

The Newcastle Breakers late last week took top Soccer to the country in a wonderful, (if not thoughtful), exercise in Public Relations.

The Breakers bused it down to the Riverina area of NSW for a four day tour of Griffith.

During this hectic period, Lee Sterrey's squad really had to earn their supper.

The Breakers set up and performed at three Soccer coaching clinics, made promotional appearances in the Shopping Centre at Griffiths and last Sunday played an exhibition match against the local Hanwood Soccer Club at Hanwood Oval.

The Breakers returned to Newcastle last night. Top stuff Newcastle.

Meanwhile in other news breaking from the Breakers, 18 year old promising striker Chris Tanchevski flew out of Sydney last weekend for a two week trial with England Premier League side Aston Villa.

As forecasted by 'Good Oil', Sterrey has signed up former Marconi teenage striker Luke Tomich as well as former Adelaide City midfielder Travis Dodd.



Lee Sterrey

names constantly being banded around as the likely appointee.

Now all of a sudden, and right out of the blue, Farina has become the red-hot favourite.

'Good Oil' knows Farina right now is almost totally unbackable.

Right here some most disturbing questions automatically surface.

Why on earth isn't current 'care-taker' coach, and the very well experienced Raul Blanco, or for that matter, even Adelaide City's Zoran Matic, are not being seriously considered?

Further still, what all of a sudden has happened to the Soccer public's outright favourite choice, one David Mitchell?

Meanwhile, the young and ambitious Farina, last week also disclosed that he'll be running in politics, shooting for a seat in the September elections of local government in the Shire of Sutherland.

In ending, 'Good Oil' firmly believes Farina will get the national position.

Will there be an assistant to Farina?

'Good Oil' advises its readers, put a buck or two on one Northern Spirit coach, Graham Arnold.

□□□□



Christian Vieri

Attilio Labbozzetta, well known son of Club Marconi's president Tony, but in reality far better known as being the best friend of the world's most expensive player (Christian Vieri), recently made a

silent and rushed trip to Italy. Only upon his return last week, 'Good Oil' was able to trace the reason for the very sudden exit to Europe.

The ever-smiling 'Tilly' had been invited to Italy, (all expenses paid), by his extra close friend Vieri, to celebrate the \$74 million dollar player's 26th birthday at one of Milan's most luxurious and expensive restaurants.

It's a hard life 'Tilly'.

□□□□

Kasey Werhman, the former Brisbane Strikers' international midfielder, recently signed by the Perth Glory and after skipping out of Marconi, dropped a real bomb shell at his first press conference in Perth last week.



Kasey Werhman

The energetic midfielder didn't shy off from slugging his old Brisbane club, which as a public relations exercise, went over like a lead balloon.

□□□□

Frank Farina, former Australian World Cup striker and current coach of giant Club Marconi, has all of a sudden rocketed into top calculations as being appointed as our next national coach, as forecasted by ABSW three weeks ago.

Since the departure of Terry Venables,



Frank Farina ... Now hot favourite for the national coaching position.

Soccer Australia had consistently, yet passively stated, it would only make an official announcement sometime in September of this year.

This week-end Soccer Australia is conducting interviews of likely candidates.

What's most intriguing, if not disturbing, is that for most of this year, Parramatta Power's coach David Mitchell also voted as 'Coach Of The Year', plus former Inter Milan manager, Englishman Roy Hodgson, were the two

The Leichhardt Tigers from this week will be hunting for a new senior coach to takeover their NSW Super League squad.

Former international centre-back and the Tigers' coach for the season just ended, Arno Bertogna, has resigned from his position on good terms.

□□□□

St George B.S.C., once the pride and joy of Australian Soccer in the 60s, 70s, and 80s has virtually disappeared as the giants of the Australian code as the world of Soccer once knew.

Over the past few years this once glorious Club has slowly but surely been allowed to slide in a steady southerly direction which has far from pleased many of its hard working, long serving loyal supporters and Club members.

These days the former high flying mighty Saints, that for years had consistently generated and supplied numerous super stars to all Australian international squads, such as Jimmy Fraser, John Warren, Manfred Schaefer, Dougie



John Warren

By John Economos

Utjesenovic, Atti Abonyi, Adrian Alston, Georgie Harris, Bobby Hogg and Harry Williams, is now most uncharacteristically languishing in the lower divisions of the NSW State League.

□□□□



Ms Gabriella Genovese - handing a trophy to Marconi's club captain Brad Maloney.

Ms Gabriella Genovese, Marconi's delicious Secretary of Soccer, flies out of Sydney this Saturday afternoon bound for Italy.

No, she will not be seeking trials with an Italian club side.

Instead, the most industrious, always extremely pleasant and adorable 'Gabbie', is attempting to squeeze in a couple of weeks holiday enjoying the tranquility of the spectacularly scenic Venice, for a very well earned rest prior to the start of a new hectic Ericsson League season.

□□□□



Joe Didulica

Joe Didulica, the Melbourne Knights' towering goalkeeper, flew out of Melbourne last Sunday bound for Europe.

Where exactly? England of course.

The Sydney Olympics squad goalkeeper will spend at least four weeks trialing with First division side Charlton.

□□□□

An ambitious Sydney based teenage striker recently decided to try his luck at Soccer in Italy.

Off went the young striker to link up in a pre season training camp with a Serie B side, up in rugged mountainous regions of Italy.

After no less than just three days of a merciless killing pre-season training programme, doing nothing else but continuous 4x 600 metres running with 90 seconds rest, then another 6 x 400 metres, and again

with just 90 seconds rest, the young Aussie 'bailed out'. And fast.

□□□□

SBS TV, by far Australia's Super Soccer Channel, is about to launch its brand new programme with highlight coverage of the England Premier League season starting next Monday night (August 9th).

Next Monday at the convenient time slot of 8.30pm, SBS kicks off the new England season.

But even far better, from the following Monday, (August 16th), the 'Super Soccer Channel' will screen the English Soccer League at the advanced time slot of, wait for it...7.30pm.

Host presenter will be SBS' Les Murray.

What a vast contrast in servicing the Australian Soccer fan as to the pre historic days of when the ABC had it and would screen this programme at 10.30pm or even in most cases 11pm and even 11.30pm.

Fabulous stuff SBS.....Again.

□□□□

The Northern Spirit could be in for an even bigger season than last.

Already the Spirit has



Les Murray

been in training for the past two weeks and as from this week will double its daily sessions under their vigil eye of their durable player-coach Graham Arnold.

Back from long career threatening injuries, are the intelligent attacking left midfielder Troy Cranney plus mobile striker Tony Perinich who last year through a tragic knee injury sustained in the pre-season, didn't even start in the League.

Joining giant striker Clayton Zane up front, is newly signed goal ace David Seal.

CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE OLYMPIC SOCCER CLUB



COACHES WANTED

FOR THE following GRADES

FIRST GRADE • UNDER 19s

WE HAVE BEEN READMITTED INTO THE SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE IN THE YEAR 2000 AND THEREFORE ARE LOOKING FOR COACHES IN

U13s, U14s, U15s AND U17s

All RESUMÉ

Applications to be sent to

Canterbury Marrickville Olympic Soccer Club

P.O. Box 976 MARRICKVILLE 1475

FOR FURTHER INQUIRIES Ring

0411 191 815



VICTORIAN SOCCER FEDERATION

Applicants are invited to apply for the following:

WOMENS SOCCER POSITIONS

- ◆ Head Coach
- ◆ Manager



For a Victorian Soccer Federation Intensive Training Centre (I.T.C.) program, with affiliated status to the Victorian Institute of Sport. We require the services of two highly motivated and experienced personnel to coach and manage the Victorian Women's team in the Ansett Summer Series through to November 1999, when a review will take place to establish a long term I.T.C. Development Program for Women's Soccer in Victoria.

Application in writing to the Coaching and Development Manager
Victorian Soccer Federation
236 Dorcas Street,
South Melbourne 3205
E-mail: info@soccervictoria.org.au or facsimile: (03) 9682 9777

Closing Date: 5th August, 1999.

Australian Features



Kasey Wehrman has made the big step from Brisbane to Perth.

By Dwyght Tuffnell

After reaching the preliminary final last season, Perth Glory's chances for a championship have been boosted by the signing of Socceroo Kasey Wehrman from Brisbane Strikers.

Wehrman joins the club on a three-year contract, and as one of the premier young players in the country, is a sound investment by the West Australian club.

Wehrman has achieved much in a ridiculously short space of time.

After bursting onto the NSL scene in the 1996-97 season, scoring four goals in Brisbane's historic championship winning campaign, he has since progressed to the Young Soccerroos, Olyroos and senior Australian squad, whom he played for in the recent two match series against Manchester United.

"That was a great experience" says Wehrman of the two games against the European champions.

"They're the best club side in the world and they have the sort of players you want to judge yourself against."

WEHRMAN IN THE WEST

"They weren't at their very best, but they weren't too far off it. Considering how young our side was it was a great effort, if we'd had our full team in there, we would've beaten them."

The move to Perth is a big one for a young man from country Queensland.

Perth, he says, is similar to Brisbane in many ways, so settling in the West shouldn't be a problem for him.

The 21 year-old admits that staying in Brisbane with the Strikers would have been his preferred choice, only to be closer to his family, but the opportunity to play with possibly the most ambitious club in Australia was too good to pass up.

After helping the Strikers capture the championship, he has been a little disappointed with where the club has gone from then on.

"Look, I don't want to be too critical of the Strikers, but it just seems that the club haven't gone forward since we won the championship while Perth are always working towards going forward, doing things that other clubs in Australia aren't."

"But I look at it in the way that this is my career. I've only got ten or so years in the game and I have to be at a club that is progressing."

Glory, it seems, more than meet the requirements of Wehrman.

"Perth have got one of the most professional set-ups in the country" says Wehrman.

"It's as close to a European club as we have here in Australia."

"The playing staff here is terrific, everyone gets looked after well and the home support the team gets is great" he enthuses.

"The attention the club receives in the media is unbelievable, much more than any other club in the league."

"Last season they did well, but we will be definitely looking to improve on that. The club won't settle for anything less than what they achieved last year."

Glory's coach, Bernd Stange, and his assistant, Mich D'Avary also played a big part in swaying the youngster to move West.

"I'll get a lot out of working under them. This move will make me into a better player" said Wehrman.

Wehrman has signed for three years with the Glory, but he's unlikely to be there that long.

A move to Europe is the next goal for Wehrman, ideally after the Olympics, if not before.

"Hopefully, I can make a good enough impression either at the Olympics or with Perth this season. I'm not keen on going for trials, I'd prefer it if the clubs would come to me."

"A good season with Perth would give me high hopes of a move to Europe and Bernd has lot of contacts over there."

"Somewhere like Holland would be good. It would be too much trouble trying to get a work permit to play in England."

With the Olympics coming up after the

season, Wehrman has some exciting times ahead of him.

the season, especially since most of the Olyroo camps are likely to be held in Europe.

It is the Olyroos that the most focus is going to be on in the coming season.

Competition for a place in the squad is going to be fierce, says Wehrman.

"We've got so many good players here as well as overseas and the three overage players to come in means that getting a spot in the squad will be tough."

"In all the games from now on, the players are going to be playing for keeps, everyone who gets a chance will be making sure they take it."

Some indifferent results of late has had some questioning whether the Olyroos can win a medal next year, but Wehrman is in no doubt.

"Some of our results, like against Brazil, have been terrific, but others, like the games we played against South Korea and China didn't go as well."

"I think we're a great chance for a medal. The statistics show that the team playing on home turf have always nearly won a medal."

Ironically, moving to Perth could have an effect on Wehrman's chances of getting into the final squad.

"I can't see it (joining Glory) making much of a difference. If anything, it might make it harder. I've got to get into the Perth side first before I can make an impression."

But to Wehrman, he sees it as more of a challenge.

"Whatever happens this season, I'll definitely be a better player for it."



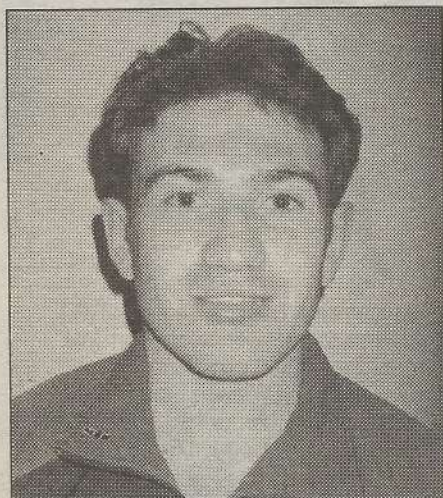
Wehrman in action for the Soccerroos against Manchester United.

With the various camps and friendlies that the Olyroos have coming up over the next twelve months or so, Wehrman is expected to miss some sizeable chunks of

LAZARIDIS MOVE A GODSEND TO SHARKS

Birmingham City of the English first division last week signed up Australia's superb winger, Stan Lazaridis from Premier League club West Ham United, for a fee believed to be in excess of 1.5 million pounds (\$2.3 million).

"I am very pleased that I have brought such a good player as Stan," said City manager Trevor Francis.



Lazaridis has left his Premier League club to move to Birmingham City.

The sale of 26-year-old Lazaridis has earned Premiership side West Ham a large profit and on the other hand, it has allowed Lazaridis to improve his skills on the world stage.

West Ham paid 300,000 pounds (\$480,000 US) to bring the young winger over to England from the Australian club, Adelaide Sharks at the end of the 1995-96 season.

His move, meanwhile, will be a godsend to the cash-strapped Sharks, which is currently under financial administration.

The club will earn a percentage of the transfer fee, expected to be worth about \$195,000 US.

The Lazaridis deal will ensure Sharks players are paid wages owed to them from missed match payments during the past NSL season.

Lazaridis' new manager at Birmingham, Trevor Francis, has no more money to spend following the signing of Stan Lazaridis.

Francis splashed almost £2million on the Australian winger, and admitted he would have to wheel and deal before adding to his squad before the new season begins.

The Blues boss said, "Once again the board of directors have backed me."

"But now there's no cash left, the deal has totally wiped me out. There could possibly be some more movement before the season starts."

"There has been some interest from various clubs in one or two of our players. I've been looking for a left-sided midfielder player for a while."

And Francis sees the Australian attacking winger as someone who will be beneficial to the club as they strive for promotion into the Premier league this season.

"Stan gives me plenty of options. He can play as a wing-back, on the left of the midfield four in a 4-4-2 formation or in the centre of midfield."

"He's got terrific pace, an excellent left foot, is very direct with his play and I'm sure he'll excite our supporters."

Lazaridis, who joined West Ham from West Adelaide after impressing against the Hammers on a pre-season tour, added: "I like to take players on and create goals. But I also like to score them and I'm keen to chip in with some."

Lazaridis told media at the press conference to unveil his signing that he has

followed Birmingham's progress for the last couple of seasons and he knows that the club were very

close to winning promotion last year and hopefully his influence this season will get the club into the big league.

Lazaridis is expected to debut for the club this weekend as the English season kicks off once again.



Stan Lazaridis

Have your Say...

Dear Editor,

As an avid fan of Australian soccer I must voice the disgust I have regarding overseas based players.

I am sick and tired of hearing constant criticism for these men who are only trying to succeed in their chosen career.

It is a well known fact that soccer players in this country can not earn a large salary so why should they not try to enhance their career and their bank balances off shore?

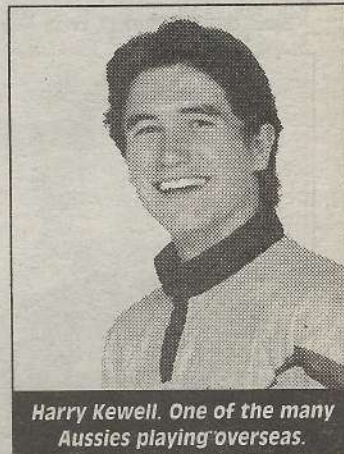
These men should be commended for taking the challenge of another country, another language and another culture and not be name called.

Unless Soccer Australia can start supplying these players with the decent wages they more than deserve, they have no right to complain when these players are hesitant to represent their country, Simon Colosimos situation is all they need to see to realise what a risk it is not only to their season but to their career — all for the sake of a friendly game.

No logically thinking person can say it is worth it — country representation or not.

I would also like to wish Chay Hews and Steve Laybutt all the best in Japan.

Becky Knight



Harry Kewell. One of the many Aussies playing overseas.

Australian Features



NSW 1999 GRAND FINAL



ANGELUCCI AN ANGEL IN BLACKTOWN'S VICTORY

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS 5

D. Brown 25, J. Angelucci 31 & 73,
D. Smith 76 & A. Holst 83.

PARRAMATTA EAGLES 1

M. Revely 68.

At Marconi Stadium, Sydney

By John Economos

Jon Angelucci the mobile striker, starred in last Sunday's NSW Super League Grand Final as he laid the foundations for Blacktown City's glorious 5-1 victory over a valiant, but luckless Parramatta Eagles at the Marconi Stadium.

However despite the heavy scoreline defeat, with a little luck, especially in the opening 20 minutes, it could have been an ever-so-different story for the Eagles.

The former young Marconi striker Angelucci, not only scored a glorious brace of goals, one either side of halftime and both from fabulous headers, but offered heavy contribution in another two.

Whilst Angelucci's performance was most angelic for Blacktown, he simultaneously proved to be Parramatta's 'Angel Of Death'.

The energetic Angelucci proved far too hot to handle, repeatedly dragging the Eagles' entire defence apart with his devastating piercing raids.

It seemed as if Blacktown's coach Brian ('Bomber') Brown had given Angelucci a total free rein to rip the Eagles to shreds.

Angelucci's twin headers came in the 31st and 73rd minutes to virtually kill off any hopes of an Eagles' comeback.

The Eagles bombarded Blacktown's lines in the opening session and seriously threatened to score, twice.

As early as in the eighth minute Eagles' midfielder Anthony Panzarino fired a wonderful through-ball that fellow midfielder Mauricio Islas latched onto, but the latter's attempted chip over the goalkeeper saw gloveman Fernando Greco stretch high and firmly save.

With the Final still scoreless after 22 minutes, Blacktown's lanky midfielder Damien Smith belted a long ball from the half way mark to find attacking defender Steve Riches galloping for the Eagles' box.

But his left footed diagonal low drive was well smothered by the Eagles' elastic goalie Jason Holmes.

A minute later things fell apart for Parramatta as mid-



Blacktown City celebrates their victory over Parramatta.

fielder Damien Brown from the back post lobbed the keeper to score and draw first blood for Blacktown, following a well taken free kick from well outside the box.

Eight minutes later Angelucci nailed his first header into the top left corner of the target after getting on the end of a great cross whipped in from the right by the industrious Damien Brown.

Parramatta's authority in the midfield was now slowly but surely sinking and being surrendered across to the hungrier Blacktown 'centre-liners'.

Eleven minutes after the break the Eagles suddenly sparked as they threatened to pull back a goal.

Striker Adam Anderson headed onto the horizontal,

but as the ball spun back out it was barely but safely tipped over the bar.

Blacktown's midfield quartet of Damien Brown, Peter Sermanni, Chris Bradley and Damien Smith were now running the show.

In the 68th the Eagles' giant and well experienced stopper Mark Revely gave the Eagles' fans great heart with a great goal.

First midfielder Ballamobou Conde hit the base of the right upright.

Following a scramble from the rebound, the powerful Revely busted in to drive hard and low into the target and reduce the deficit to 2-1.

But the determined Angelucci was in no philanthrop-

Lower Grade Grand Final Results, also played at the Marconi Stadium:

The Under 21s Grand Final went to the Macarthur Rams who scored 8 goals and were simply too strong for Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4.

In the Under 18s Grand Final, the Parramatta Eagles proved far too strong for Macarthur Rams, running out 3-0 winners.

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 5,000

Referee: B. Hugo.

Blacktown City: Greco, Lowe, Langon, Yates, Brown, Sermanni, Bradley, Smith, Riches (Holst 63), Angelucci, Cleary (Bennett 83).

Parramatta Eagles: Holmes, Utjesenovic, O'Grady, Mielak, Revely, Mittiga (Boskovski 72), Islas, Panzarino, Conde, Baird, Anderson.

ic mood to surrender a NSW Super League Championship medal.

Following another Brown free kick in the 73rd minute, Angelucci raced in to head glance into the target and stretch Blacktown to a 3-1 lead.

This was the 'killer goal' and an Eagles' fightback now became academic.

From there on it was all downhill for the Eagles as the 'Red and Blacks' relentlessly threw more and more coal in their furnace to really turn up the heat.

The former Novocastrian striker in recent years turned midfielder Damien Smith, nailed in No 4 for the 'Red and Blacks' as he gratefully got on the end of an Angelucci cross fired in from the right to head into the target.

With seven minutes to go, both substitute Aaron Holst as well as giant striker Stuart Cleary, seemed well off-side as they busted upfield through a square and flat Eagles defence.

But the 'heartless' flag stayed down as first Cleary, hit the cross bar with Holst slamming the rebound low and hard deep into the Eagles' net.

Besides Angelucci and Brown, Blacktown's best were twin central markers Matthew Lowe and Paul Yates who defiantly 'cleared any traffic' that happened to come their way.

For the luckless Eagles, striker Grant Bard, midfielder Islas and stopper Paul O'Grady did best on a day that soon became not theirs.

What The Grand Final Bosses Had To Say.

By John Economos

Blacktown City's powerfully built 42 year old coach Brian ('Bomber') Brown, was quietly leaning against the dressing room wall observing his squad rejoicing their victory.

The former no nonsense Falkirk centre back who migrated from Scotland some 15 years ago to play and skipper Victorian side Brunswick Juventus, when approached by ABSW, slowly confessed: "I felt we struggled a little in the first 25 minutes or so.

"Having had a week off didn't help us at all I feel, but then we scored our first goal which settled us down a bit.

"Even at 2-0 at halftime, I felt just a couple of mistakes and we could be in danger.

"When we got our third goal, the game was finished. "Over the last three weeks of the League season the boys relaxed a bit too much and I was forced to increase our training sessions.

"We then went on over the next three weeks to win our next three games and to score 13 goals.

"It was a good average Finals' football today".

Then the big shouldered Scot despite the still joyous din coming from his jubilant players, lamented: "We were today without our suspended captain Damien Foxe who was outstanding for us all season.

"I was really disappointed that he (Foxe) couldn't take the field and be with the boys out there today," ended the quietly spoken 'Bomber'.

This being Brown's very first year in senior coaching, he has made more than a splendid start.

ABSW then drifted across to the losers' dressing

rooms, never a pleasant task let alone following a Grand Final loss.



Blacktown coach Brian Brown.

But Parramatta's boss and former Brazilian Roberto Viera was quite philosophical and offered no excuses whatsoever.

"It was an even game at first but in the second half our markers didn't do their job well.

"I believe that in the first 20 minutes we had chances, chances we didn't take which you must.

"Don't get me wrong, Blacktown is a really good team and they took their chances, chances that you just can't afford to give to them."

Leaning back in silence for a moment, Viera turned and smiled, slowly but genuinely adding: "I congratulate them really.

"Especially in the manner they today played.

"They deserved their win with such a well disciplined performance," Viera ended.

Australian Features

Fremantle extends lead

Western Australian Premier League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fremantle City SC	15	11	2	2	42	19	35
Sorrento SC	16	9	4	3	43	21	31
Western Knights SC	16	9	3	4	41	23	30
ECU Joondalup SC	16	9	1	3	37	14	28
Bayswater City Panthers	16	7	5	4	21	14	26
Inglewood Falcons SC	16	6	3	7	22	25	21
Floreat Athena SC	16	6	2	7	33	31	20
Perth Soccer Club	15	5	3	7	17	21	18
Ashfield-Bunbury SC	15	5	3	8	20	42	18
Stirling Lions SC	16	4	2	9	26	41	14
Cockburn City SC	15	2	5	8	20	37	11
Kingsway Olympic SC	16	1	3	12	15	48	6

Port rises to third

South Australian Premier League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cumberland United	20	11	5	4	33	26	38
Raiders	20	11	4	5	33	21	37
Port Adelaide Lion	20	10	4	6	43	29	34
Campbelltown City	20	10	4	6	36	29	34
Elizabeth City	20	10	4	6	36	29	34
Croydon	20	8	7	5	45	28	31
White City Warriors	20	9	4	7	31	34	31
West Torrens Birkall	20	9	2	9	39	42	29
Adelaide Blue Eagles	20	7	6	7	30	26	27
Modbury	20	6	2	12	35	47	20
Para Hills Knights	20	4	5	11	25	41	17
Olympians	20	0	3	17	31	61	3



Premier Results

Kingsway Olympic 1 v ECU Joondalup 2
 Floreat Athena 3 v Stirling Lions 2
 Perth SC 2 v Western Knights 0
 Cockburn City v Ashfield Bunbury
 Inglewood Falcons v 0 Sorrento 1
 Fremantle City 1 v Bayswater City Panthers 0

Premier Results

Croydon 1 v Elizabeth City 1
 Para Hills Knights 1 v Campbelltown City 3
 Adelaide Blue Eagles 1 v Modbury 1
 Olympians 0 v Port Adelaide Lion 5
 West Torrens Birkall 7 v White City Warriors 0
 Raiders 1 v Cumberland United 1



Have Your Say ... soccer on seven

It looks as though Seven are finally realising that maybe soccer has a greater supporter base than they expected following the response to a recent have your say discussion about how dominant soccer will become in Australia.

Theon the channels net site received more than 160 responses and most of them were highly critical of the way that the station is treating soccer.

Below is a small selection of what the fans think of soccer and how the station is running it.

Soccer in this country only needs more commercial support to generate greater widespread interest:

There are many fans out there, self included, who love the sport, even though it does not receive the recognition it deserves in the mainstream.

"Of course, the sport can always exist without media hype; indeed, coverage on SBS, a broadcaster on budgets so tight news presenters have to buy their own clothes, has been of the highest and most professional nature... here's hoping commercialism doesn't degenerate the sport into a cheap [note the irony] commercial venture.

PS Seven, don't run ads while the game is being played; it only puts us off.

If the administrators of every soccer club in Australia were to see further than this season and THEIR 'Senior' team, and they directed their energies into the juniors of their clubs, MAYBE the 30 to 40 under 6's that sign on every season in a lot of clubs will still be playing soccer when they are 17 and older.

How many clubs in the past have had 60+ kids in teams for the under 6's & 7's, yet when those same kids were old enough to be part of a junior colts team, that club cannot field a team. Why is soccer losing these kids.

Yes soccer will take over all other Australian sports but it will take time. It could happen as quick as 5 years from now. The only thing Australian soccer needs is better league. More development at schools is a need.

National Soccer may not be very popular on the commercial networks on television, but it is the most widely played sport by Australians.

More people play soccer than play any other football game. So I say that soccer already dominates Australian sport.

Soccer will never thrive in Australia like our traditional sports, however, there is room for the worlds most popular sport to become more popular.

"If this is to be the case there are some things that need to happen

A) There needs to be media coverage, both live of the match and in news reports on commercial networks such as Seven and Nine.

B) More Australian competitions and international matches played in Australia

C) Sponsorship
 D) Time

Growth in soccer in Australia doesn't have to be at the expense of AFL. Soccer in Australia is a summer sport, so there's only a couple of months in which the two clash; which leaves plenty of time to follow both. And I do.

"I don't know what the TV coverage of the NSL was like on SBS — I never watched it. I watch the Sunday afternoon telecast on Channel 2 sometimes, especially when the Spirit are playing.

"If Channel 7 aren't able to show the games live, farming them out to Channel 2 isn't a bad idea.

As mentioned in a previous letter, Channel Seven proudly boasts "Nobody knows sport like Seven."

Soon all, you will be hearing is "Nobody stuffs up soccer like Seven."



Aussie rules is shoved down our throats seven days a week yet the real football is still the leading participation sport in Australia.

"Soccer has far less injuries than Aussie rules and brings in incomes that Aussie rules players could only dream about.

"Headlines scream about \$500,000 wages, this is minuscule compared to international footballers.

"Less injuries, higher wages and more intensity. I know which sport I'd prefer my son to play.

BUT ON THE OTHER HAND

Ninety Plus minutes to watch a nil-all result with about a one-minute highlights package - no way !! Australian Rules Football by an Australian Country Mile anytime!!



Action from the Manchester United versus Australia clash. Seven has been attacked for its coverage of soccer but all they are saying is to give them a chance.

Certainly a live telecast is the best way to build up interest — look at how the Swans' attendance picked up when Channel 7 started showing their games live.

Soccer had it's chance when they could have had the goal dimensions changed.

No way soccer can stay in Europe where it belongs. It might be one of the biggest sports in the world but it is also the most boring. Australian's have to stick to Cricket, Football, Tennis and Hockey.

I don't know why people bother with soccer. It is a dead end sport. It is going nowhere!

Look at Aussie Rules. It is now the dominant sport in THREE states, Victoria, SA, and WA. It fills the papers, TV and the radio, and is now on the brink of going international. There are already Aussie Rules teams in Papua New Guinea and Japan, and there are similar games played in Ireland and the Isle of Man, where it is called Phurty. The day is not far off when our best players will wear the green and gold of Australia in a five nation international. Our first Aussie Rules WORLD Cup.

Australian soccer is so boring that is why football gets all the attention. Also football is Australian and soccer is English.

"They should make bigger grounds and attract more fans.

Australian soccer is so boring that is why football gets all the attention... also football is Australian and soccer is English. They should make bigger grounds and attract more fans.

And finally to close, a message that sums up the feelings of everyone.

I'm sorry but I think soccer is one of the best sports played besides cricket, its more fun and exciting. Aussie Rules should be there as well, there's no one sport better than the other it's just that different people love different sports.

Although Channel Seven hasn't given us the best coverage of soccer so far, before we attack the station, maybe we should give them a chance of proving themselves.

SBS has done a fine job with but Channel Seven are a commercial network and the bigger the viewing audiences that the station is exposed to means that more people can witness the game.

To finish, the overall feeling is that Channel Seven are not treating soccer with the respect that it deserves but all the station is saying is give them a chance to help soccer to grow and become the biggest sport in Australia

Australian Features



This week we sit back, relax and share a Soft Sombrero moment with our Diegos guest of the week — a whistle blowing man in black who over the years has officiated at all levels of the game.

The World cup in USA 94, the 1993 World Youth Cup, the 1995 World University games, the 1997 World U/17 Championships, the 1998 Ericsson Cup Grand final and Australian referee of the year in 1993 and 1998, proves that this man has brandished his yellow cards with the best of them.

Please give a big four Diegos welcome to Australia's recently retired, FIFA referee — Eugene Brazzale.



BRAZZALE BLOWS HIS FINAL WHISTLE

Diegos: "Eugene, the whistle will never be blown again. The red card has been nailed next to the Moose's head by the trophy cabinet, the stopwatch will tick no more, and thousands of angry men will never tell you again that they have slept with one a loved one."

"This week you've announced your retirement from refereeing. How do you feel and what are the chances of multiple Joe Bugner type comebacks?"

Brazzale: "I think that the Joe Bugner comebacks are definitely not on. The feeling is one of being content with my decision to give up whilst refereeing still at a fairly high level. 'I guess I feel relieved that I made the decision now before I start finding my performance deteriorating in any way.'"

Diegos: "The Diegos now grant you free rein. Now that you've retired you have nothing to fear, no one to answer to. Start naming names, who do you want to bag?"

Brazzale: "Have you heard of the one about not burning your bridges? I've had some great experiences over the last 20 years. I've met some fantastic people and I wouldn't want to bag any of them."

"I believe the good people tend to come back into your life anyway, so unfortunately for you Diegos, there will be no bagging."

Diegos: "Who are the special people you've met in soccer?"

Brazzale: "There are so many of them. Some of the backroom people are the one's that stand out. You always hear about the high profile guys like Mark Bosnich that get all the media attention but it's the people that are involved at club level that mark the ground, arrange the catering and administration etc, who I'll always remember."

"They are there for the love of the game and in my mind, they are some of the more special people."

Diegos: "What does a referee do when he is retired. The Four Diegos are tipping a job like a lollipop man at a school pedestrian crossing or perhaps a bouncer at an unruly night-club."

"Are these some options worth considering?"

Brazzale: "Well I've been thinking about it and my wife has suggested a few things as well, none of which you have mentioned."

"Her suggestions are more attuned to the gardening and the house maintenance. Maybe my direction will be guided by someone a bit more close to me."

Diegos: "Your last task as a referee was as the fourth official at the 'Socceroos versus Manchester United' show at the MCG."

"Did you allow yourself the luxury of enjoying the game as a spectator and

Brazzale: "I'm getting shivers down the spine as I think about it. It was definitely walking out on to Soldier field, Chicago on my 35th birthday with the German team walking behind me prior to the World cup opening game between Germany and

A letter from Chris Bambridge — President Soccer Referees Victoria

Re: Eugene Brazzale

We at Soccer Referees Victoria Inc. are disappointed to receive notification of the retirement of our Senior FIFA referee.

Eugene, since joining our ranks in 1981, has officiated with distinction within the VSF Leagues, the National Soccer League, a FIFA Assistant Referee at both the '93 World Youth Championships and the '94 World Cup in USA.

He earned praise for his performances as a FIFA Referee in '95 in Japan at the World University Games and in Egypt at the U17 World Cup in '97 and has referred World Cup Qualifiers throughout Oceania.

As well as numerous Internationals within Australia, he has also taken charge of three Johnny Walker Grand Finals and the 1998 Ericsson Cup Grand Final, as well as being named Australian Referee of the Year in '93 & '98.

Our body thanks Eugene for the dedication to our craft that he has shown over the past 18 years and also the numerous sacrifices that he has made in order to maintain his high professional standard.

We hope that Eugene will now be able to spend some quality time with wife Claudia and daughter Laura, who have been his "backbone", and we hope that we can, in the future, utilise the experience and knowledge that he has gleaned, to improve other referees standards.

were you disappointed at all that the Manchester United boys didn't mark the occasion by carrying you off shoulder high after the game?"

Brazzale: "There was a nice touch from Simon Colossimo as I was walking off the park. He came over and said congratulations on a great career. The fourth official's job is actually quite a busy one."

"It starts 90 minutes before the game, in the dressing rooms, doing various administration tasks. During the game I was in fact, fairly busy. So much so that I had to watch the match on tape at home afterwards to get a real sense of the spectacle."

Diegos: "You've refereed in World cups at all levels and you've reached the pinnacle of refereeing in this country and stayed there a long time."

"What is your fondest memory as a referee?"

Bolivia in 1994.

"There I was with the world watching. You have no idea the amount of pride I felt at that particular moment."

Diegos: "What did people say when you pulled out your linesman flag with the Australian flag on it?"

Brazzale: "I was a little tempted but unfortunately that was not on."

Diegos: "In the other game, Aussie rules footy, recently, all of Australia witnessed one of the most extraordinary sights in the history of sport when umpire, Peter Carey actually took a mark during the game."

"Have you ever felt like joining in, maybe launching into an overhead scissors kick or slide tackling a player who has given you an ear full all day?"

Brazzale: "Most of us have played the game and I must admit at the times, the instincts are there to get involved."

"In the Manchester United game I really felt like running on to the pitch and kicking the ball into an empty net."

"Thankfully my professionalism shone through and I resisted."

Diegos: "Over the years we have heard stories of Russian referees being bribed with fur coats, bottles of vodka and the company of disreputable women of the night."

"Has anyone ever approached you to throw a game and are the fur coats keeping your wife warm this winter?"

Brazzale: "The holidays in the Bahamas are a good perk to. Only joking! No, fortunately nothing like that has happened to me."

"It did happen however to a very good referee from Costa Rica, who I officiated with at the World Cup."

"In 1995 he was invited to referee in one of the Arab states and was offered a bribe but only told the officials after the game. Unfortunately this is not the procedure."

"The procedure is to tell the appropriate authorities before the game. He was subsequently suspended for four or five months."

Diegos: "A quick Diego's Heart Balm question. What was your worst decision ever on a soccer field?"

Brazzale: "I don't really reflect on bad situations too much. I just try and learn from them whenever I can."

"Throughout my career I was given tapes of my performances regularly and I learned a lot about how I should be positioned etc but in terms of bad decisions, if you don't deal with these issues early in your career you tend not to go very far."

Diegos: "Thanks Eugene. The Diegos just want to say, for one last time, that



Eugene Brazzale has blown the final whistle on his refereeing career.

your mum wears army boots, you are a blind mongrel, and that that was never a penalty! Adios Amigo!"

Brazzale: "Thanks Diegos. You have no idea what those kind sentiments mean to me. Adios Amigos!"

NSW SUPER LEAGUE

BLACKTOWN BLOW EAGLES AWAY IN 1999 SUPER LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

The Blacktown City Demons took out their second Grand Final win in two years when they defeated the Parramatta Eagles 5-1 in front of a large crowd at Marconi Stadium today.

The scoreline flattered the Demons, although as Coach Brian Brown pointed out, "Our finishing today was just awesome".

The Eagles had the better of the first twenty minutes, but on 24 minutes Damien Brown picked up a loose ball in the penalty area and was able to flick it over the on-rushing Jason Holmes in the Parramatta goal.

Six minutes later Brown turned creator, sending over a superb far post cross where Jon Angelucci slammed a header home.

Parramatta continued to push forward and looked the more dangerous team, and deservedly got back in the game mid-way through the second half when big defender Mark Revely prodded home after a shot from Balla Conde had hit the post.

At 2-1 down the Eagles fans were starting to imagine some of their semi-final exploits might be repeated, but six minutes after making it 2-1 Brown again found Angelucci, and the big number 7 scored another header to make it 3-1.

Angelucci then set up the next goal, rounding Holmes before crossing the ball for Damien Smith to head into the empty net.

The scoring was complete when Stuart Cleary, last years Grand Final hero, smashed the ball against the crossbar, but Aaron Holst was on hand to head home the rebound.

Damon Langan accepted the trophy with

regular skipper Damien Foxe out suspended, and the Eagles were left with the realisation that they had got out of jail twice during the semi-finals, but it wasn't to be a third time lucky.

Blacktown City Demons: Greco, Lowe, Riches (Holst), Bradley, Langan, Angelucci, Cleary (Bennett), Smith, Yates, Brown, Sermanni.

Parramatta Eagles: Holmes, Utjesenovic, O'Grady, Revely, Panzarino, M Meilak, Bard, Islas, Mittiga (Boskovski), Anderson, Conde.

Goals: Blacktown City Demons: Brown 24, Angelucci 31, 74, Smith 76, Holst 83

Parramatta Eagles: Revely 68

Yellow Cards: Blacktown City Demons: Lowe, Sermanni.

Referee: Brett Hugo

In the Under 21's it was Macarthur who took the trophy, defeating Bonnyrigg White Eagles 8-4 in an amazing game.

Macarthur scored through Gavin Cramming, Kory Babington, Gary Attard, Rodney Hutchinson, Kaan Uysen, Shane Risby (2) and an own goal, while Bonnyrigg, who had two players sent off, scored through Joe Bruni, Stuart Neilson, Milan Savic and Dragan Skorice.

In the Under 18's Parramatta started their day off in fine fashion by outclassing the Macarthur Rams 3-0, with goals from Alex Muscat, Brad Moore and Erik Anabalon.

SUPER LEAGUE

GRAND FINAL

FIRST GRADE: Blacktown City 5 (D Brown 14m, J Angelucci 31/74m, D Smith 76m, A Holst 83m) bt Parramatta Eagles 1 (M Revely 68m).

U/21: Macarthur Rams 8 bt Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4.

U/18: Parramatta Eagles 3 bt Macarthur Rams 0.

DIVISION ONE

FIRST GRADE: Stanmore Hawks 4 bt Bathurst '75 0, Auburn United 3 bt Dulwich Hill 2, AC United 3 (D Heseyin 21m, F Screpes 49m, E Dullak 61m) bt Stanmore Hawks 2 (A Lara 59m, E Briscoe 84m), Auburn United 1 (T Lara 27m) bt Manly Warringah 0, Illawarra Lions 5 (A Krstevski 5m, J Kencevski 20m, V Kupresak 80/89m, V Tasevski 90m) bt Rockdale City 3 (S Najdoski 39/54m, P Apolevski 57m), Moorebank Sports 3 bt Dulwich Hill 0, Hurstville City 3 (J Tratselas 50m, S Kladis 54m, N Knitharis 75m) bt Bathurst '75 2 (L Ackland 7m, B Mclean 87m), Penrith Panthers 2 (J Hawkins 35m, K Baloot 68m) bt AC United 1 (B Sansone 42m), Rockdale City 5 (S Najdoski 18m, K Pillay 26m, G. Trposki 49m, B Petrovski 53m) bt Hurstville City 2 (N Knithakis 11/14m).

U/21: Penrith Panthers 2 bt St George 1, AC United 2 bt Stanmore Hawks 1, Manly Warringah 2 bt Auburn United 1, Rockdale City 7 bt Illawarra Lions 1, Moorebank Sports 3 bt Dulwich Hill 2, Bathurst '75 5 bt Hurstville City 3, AC United 1 drew Penrith Panthers 1, Rockdale City 8 bt Hurstville City 2.

U/18: Penrith Panthers 2 bt St George 0, AC United 5 bt Stanmore Hawks 0, Manly Warringah vs Auburn United Postponed, Rockdale City 7 bt Illawarra Lions 2, Dulwich Hill 0 drew Moorebank Sports 0, Bathurst '75 5 bt Hurstville City 0, AC United 3 bt Penrith Panthers 0, Rockdale City 3 bt Hurstville City 1.

DIVISION TWO

FIRST GRADE: Greystanes 1 bt Sydney University 0, Mt Druitt Town 4 bt Hills United 1, Fraser Park 2 bt Hajduk Wanderers 1, Hurstville ZSC 3 drew Mt Pritchard 3, Arncliffe Scots 5 bt Belmore Hercules 3.

U/21: Greystanes 4 bt Sydney University 0, Hills United 2 bt Mt Druitt Town 1, Hajduk Wanderers 4 bt Fraser Park 2, Hurstville ZSC 3 bt Mt Pritchard 1, Belmore Hercules 4 bt Arncliffe Scots 2.

U/18: Sydney University 1 drew Greystanes 1, Hills United 2 bt Mt Druitt Town 0, Hajduk Wanderers 3 bt Fraser Park 0, Mt Pritchard 2 bt Hurstville ZSC 0, Belmore Hercules 3 bt Arncliffe Scots 0.

DIVISION THREE

FIRST GRADE: Camden Tigers 4 bt Liverpool City 1, The Wanderers 2 bt Colo Colo 1, Parramatta City 0 drew Gladesville United 0, White City 3 bt Prospect United 1.

SECOND GRADE: Camden Tigers 5 bt Liverpool City 2, The Wanderers 2 bt Colo Colo 0, Parramatta City 3 drew Gladesville United 3, Prospect United 3 bt White City 1.

DIVISION FOUR

FIRST GRADE: Sydney Crescent Star 1 bt Balmain 0, Holy Cross Ryde 4 bt Auburn Star 1, CSI Schofields 3 bt White Valley 2, Prairiewood United 3 bt Springwood 1, Nepean District 2 bt Hawkesbury City 1, Granville Greenisland 2 bt United Eagles 1, Marrickville 2 bt Eastern Creek Pioneers 0, Auburn Star 1 drew Eastern Creek Pioneers 1, Balmain 1 bt Springwood 0.

SECOND GRADE: Balmain 7 bt Sydney Crescent Star 0, Holy Cross 9 bt Auburn Star 0, White Valley 2 bt CSI Schofields 2, Prairiewood United 2 bt Springwood 2, Nepean District 2 bt Hawkesbury City 1, United Eagles 5 bt Granville Greenisland 1, Marrickville 2 bt Eastern Creek Pioneers 1, Auburn Star 2 bt Eastern Creek Pioneers 0, Springwood 2 bt Balmain 1.

DIVISION FIVE

FIRST GRADE: Kosciusko 7 bt Macquarie Sports 2, UTS 3 bt Lithgow Workmen 1, Bossy 5 bt Sydney TUSC 1, Sporting SCC 5 bt Homenetmen 2, Earlwood Hermes 3 bt Macquarie Sports 0, AVA Limited 2 bt Liverpool Olympic 1, Kosciusko 1 bt Sydney United Kings 0, Bossy 4 bt Earlwood Hermes 2.

SECOND GRADE: Kosciusko 3 bt Macquarie Sports 0, Lithgow Workmen 4 bt UTS 0, Sydney TUSC 2 bt Bossy 0, Sporting SCC 6 bt Homenetmen 2, Earlwood Hermes 3 bt Macquarie Sports 0, Liverpool Olympic 4 bt AVA United 0, Kosciusko 4 bt Sydney United Kings 2, Bossy 3 bt Earlwood Hermes 1.

WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE: Sutherland Sharks 2 bt Nepean Panthers 1, NNSW ITC/Academy 3 bt Marconi Fairfield 1, UWS Macarthur Rams 1 bt Sutherland Sharks 0, Nepean Panthers 3 bt Gladesville Ravens 1, Central Coast 4 bt Shoalhaven Assoc 1, NSW INST/Academy 8 bt Sydney United 0.

U/21: Sutherland Sharks 1 bt Nepean Panthers 0, Marconi Fairfield 2 bt NSW Inst Academy 1, NNSW ITC Academy 2 bt Marconi Fairfield 0, UWS Macarthur Rams 0 drew Sutherland Sharks 0, Gladesville Ravens 3 bt Nepean Panthers 2, Sydney United 1 drew NSW INST/Academy 1.

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE: Roselands 2 bt Eastern Suburbs 1, Manly Warringah 1 drew Wollongong Wolves 1, Gladesville Hornsby

Koalas 7 bt Bankstown United 0, Bathurst City 0 drew St George Association 0.

U/19: Eastern Suburbs 4 bt Roselands 3, Manly Warringah 1 bt Wollongong Wolves 0, Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 3 bt Bankstown United 0, St George Association 1 bt Bathurst City 0.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

U/13: Parramatta Eagles 1 bt Macarthur Rams 0, Leichhardt Tigers 4 bt Manly Warringah 1, Blacktown City 4 bt Gladesville Hornsby 0, Sydney Olympic 1 bt Parramatta Eagles 0, Southern Branch 1 drew Sydney United 1, Macarthur Rams 1 bt Central Coast 0, Newcastle Breakers 5 bt Southern Districts 0, Sutherland Sharks 2 bt Eastern Suburbs 1, Wollongong Wolves 4 bt Marconi Fairfield 1.

U/14: Parramatta Eagles 2 bt Macarthur Rams 1, Leichhardt Tigers 2 drew Manly Warringah 2, Blacktown City 1 bt Gladesville Hornsby 0, Parramatta Eagles 2 drew Sydney Olympic 2, Southern Branch 3 bt Sydney United 2, Central Coast 1 drew Macarthur Rams 1, Newcastle Breakers 1 bt Southern Districts 0, Sutherland Sharks 3 bt Eastern Suburbs 1, Marconi Fairfield 2 bt Wollongong Wolves 1.

U/15: Macarthur Rams 1 bt Parramatta Eagles 0, Leichhardt Tigers 4 bt Manly Warringah 1, Blacktown City 3 bt Gladesville Hornsby 1, Parramatta Eagles 0 drew Sydney Olympic 0, Southern Branch 4 bt Sydney United 2, Macarthur Rams 1 bt Central Coast 0, Southern Districts 2 bt Newcastle Breakers 1, Sutherland Sharks 4 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Marconi Fairfield 4 bt Wollongong Wolves 1.

U/16: Parramatta Eagles 3 bt Macarthur Rams 0, Leichhardt Tigers 5 bt Manly Warringah 0, Blacktown City 1 bt Gladesville Hornsby 0, Sydney Olympic 3 bt Parramatta Eagles 1, Southern Branch 2 bt Sydney United 1, Macarthur Rams 1 bt Central Coast 0, Newcastle Breakers 5 bt Southern Districts 0, Sutherland Sharks 2 bt Eastern Suburbs 1, Wollongong Wolves 1 drew Marconi Fairfield 1.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE

U/13: Rockdale City Suns 2 bt Canterbury M'Ville 1, Hills United 2 bt Bankstown Association 1, Blacktown Association 2 bt Canterbury Association 0, Stanmore Hawks 0 drew Penrith Panthers 0, AC United 0 drew Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, Illawarra Lions 9 bt Fairfield Bulls 0, Ryde City 3 bt St George 0, Hills United 7 bt Stanmore Hawks 0.

U/14: Rockdale City Suns 1 bt Canterbury M'Ville 0, Hills United 1 drew Bankstown Association 1, Canterbury Association 2 drew Blacktown Association 2, Penrith Panthers 3 bt Stanmore Hawks 0, AC United 3 bt Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, Illawarra Lions 2 bt Fairfield Bulls 0, Ryde City 2 bt St George 0, Hills United 0 drew Stanmore Hawks 0.

U/15: Canterbury M'Ville 2 bt St George 0, Canterbury M'Ville 0 drew Rockdale City Suns 0, Hills United 0 drew Bankstown Association 0, Canterbury Association 4 bt Blacktown Association 1, Penrith Panthers 1 bt Stanmore Hawks 0, AC United 2 bt Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, Illawarra Lions 2 bt Fairfield Bulls 0, St George 1 bt Ryde City 0, Hills United 3 bt Stanmore Hawks 1.

U/16: St George 0 drew Canterbury M'Ville 0, Rockdale City Suns 3 bt Canterbury M'Ville 0, Bankstown Association 2 bt Hills United 0, Blacktown Association 2 bt Canterbury Association 1, Stanmore Hawks 4 bt Penrith Panthers 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 bt AC United 1, Illawarra Lions 3 bt Fairfield Bulls 1, Ryde City 2 bt St George 0, Stanmore Hawks 1 bt Hills United 0.

DIVISION TWO YOUTH LEAGUE

U/13: Nepean Association 4 bt Mt Druitt Town 1, Ku-Ring-Gai Association 0 drew Nepean Association 0, Hajduk Wanderers 0 drew Macquarie Sports 0, Mt Druitt Town 1 drew Granville Association 1, Mt Pritchard 1 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Camden Tigers 2 bt Hawkesbury City 0, CSI Schofields 3 bt Parramatta City 1, Macquarie Sports 0 drew Mt Pritchard 0.

U/14: Mt Druitt Town 0 drew Nepean Association 0, Nepean Association 2 bt Ku-Ring-Gai Association 0, Macquarie Sports 2 bt Hajduk Wanderers 1, Granville Association 1 bt Mt Druitt Town 0, Mt Pritchard 7 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Camden Tigers 2 bt Hawkesbury City 0, CSI Schofields 1 bt Parramatta City 0, Mt Pritchard 1 bt Macquarie Sports 0.

U/15: Mt Druitt Town 1 drew Nepean Association 1, Nepean Association 5 bt Ku-Ring-Gai Association 1, Hajduk Wanderers 4 bt Macquarie Sports 2, Mt Druitt Town 1 drew Granville Association 1, Mt Pritchard 4 bt Moorebank Sports 1, Camden Tigers 4 bt Hawkesbury City 1, Parramatta City 3 bt CSI Schofields 1, Mt Pritchard 2 bt Macquarie Sports 0.

U/16: Mt Druitt Town 1 drew Nepean Association 1, Ku-Ring-Gai Association 4 bt Nepean Association 3, Hajduk Wanderers 5 bt Macquarie Sports 0, Mt Druitt Town 0 drew Granville Association 0, Mt Pritchard 3 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Camden Tigers 5 bt Hawkesbury City 0, Parramatta City 5 bt CSI Schofields 2, Mt Pritchard 4 bt Macquarie Sports 0.

CADET LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

U/11: AC United 2 bt Hawkesbury 0, Macquarie Sports 0 drew Penrith Panthers 0, CSI Schofields 7 bt Mt Pritchard 0, Illawarra Lions 2 bt Stanmore Hawks 1, Hills United 1 bt Hajduk Wanderers 0, Moorebank Sports 1 bt Mt Druitt Town 0, AC United 0 drew Macquarie Sports 0.

U/12: AC United 2 bt Hawkesbury City 1, Macquarie Sports 1 drew Penrith Panthers 1, CSI Schofields 3 bt Mt Pritchard 2, Illawarra Lions 2 bt Stanmore Hawks 1, Hills United 3 bt Hajduk Wanderers 0, Mt Druitt Town 4 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Macquarie Sports 3 bt AC United 0.



Blacktown City players following the final, (L-R) Chris Bradley (holding trophy) Peter Sermanni, Damon Langan, Fernando Greco.

Soccer Woman

WITH JANENE MAR IN CANBERRA

AUSSIES DO IT TOUGH AGAINST SENIORS

The Australian U21 Nordic Cup Team found the going tough in their one and only hitout before the Nordic Cup, up against Iceland's senior National Team last Friday at Laugardalur Stadium in Reykjavik.

Bigger physically and obviously far more experienced, Iceland ran away with the match 5-0.

It was their last preparation game before next month's date with Italy in the European Qualifiers.

competitors Sweden by just two goals, and defeated Ukraine 3-2.

Kicking off just 48 hours after their arrival from a horrendously long forty-hour journey, the Australians were still suffering the effects of jet lag. The weather at least was kind with a mild 15 degrees and sunshine.

It wasn't too long before Australia's goal came under siege, the first real chance for Iceland whistling half a metre past the post after 12 minutes.

long-range effort was stopped in its path with a fingertip save over the crossbar from Butland.

The 15th minute saw Australia with one of its rare opportunities on goal, midfielder Kate McShea with a narrow miss over the bar from outside the box.

The strike from distance was typical of Australia's few chances, unable to penetrate in attack and never really threatening at closer range until almost the end of the match.

Iceland finally opened their account in the 23rd minute, defender Tracie McGovern tripping over and losing possession whilst trying to build from out wide on the right. Iceland accepted the ball, passed inside for their attacker to step inside her marker and slot the shot past Butland.

Their lead was doubled in the 32nd minute under dubious circumstances, as three players appeared to be in an offside position.

Another two minutes later, and the damage was three goals, Iceland successful from the right edge of the 18-yard box.

Three minutes before the break, Aussie fullback Georgette Leake blocked a shot, McGovern then blocking a second and the ball going out over the endline.

A goal-bound strike from the resultant corner was cleared off the line by Peita-Claire Hepperlin, guarding the far post.

But the hosts were to squeeze in a fourth goal before the whistle blew for half-time, Butland beaten in another one-on-one situation.

Three minutes after the restart, Iceland snared goal number five, a great strike from the right hand corner of the box past substitute keeper Cassandra Kell and into the top left corner of the net.

encouraged by certain aspects of the game.

"The result of the game never worried me," he said. "It was more important that the players put into practice some of the things that we've been talking about at training."

"The side was only together for four days before coming here, so to come up against a senior national team was an enormous challenge.

Obviously the Icelanders are bigger, stronger and more experienced, but I saw enough from our players, especially in the second half, to suggest that there were a lot of positives from this game.

I was really pleased with the way that our players didn't give up and we kept them scoreless for the last forty minutes of the match."

"I've learned some things, and I think that the players have learned a great deal from it too."

AUSSIE-FAX

Good luck messages may be forwarded to the team's hotel as follows -

Attn - Sharon Dewar, Manager
Australian U21 Soccer Team
Hotel Loftleidir, Reykjavik
Fax: 0015-354-505.0905

NB - Iceland is 10 hours behind AEST.

Agreeing to play interchange, all 17 members of the Australian side were given a run during the second half.

Australia battled hard for most of the remainder of the game and were to concede no further goals.

National Youth Coach Chris Tanzey was unconcerned with the scoreline and

Australia U21: Butland (Kell 46), McGovern, Leake, Bisby (Bisby 51), Cavanagh, McShea, Small, Hepperlin, Revell — captain (Ruotolo 52), Thomas, Carney.

(With interchange, all players got on the park)

ZEBRAS CLINCH SA TITLE

Adelaide City Zebras clinched the SA Premier League premiership last Sunday with still two matches remaining, thumping the hapless Western Districts 14-0 at home.

After winning promotion from Second Division, coach Fabio De Luca recruited a star-studded lineup for the 1999 campaign, City's first season in the top league for several years.

Their attention now turns to this week's Cup quarterfinal, away to Premier League outfit Elizabeth Vale, in their quest to claim the South Australian double.

Iceland is hardly a poor side, having finished third in Europe's Group 1 in last year's European Championships, behind Sweden and Ukraine and ahead of Spain.

In the process they lost twice to Olympic

A moment later, Iceland's central striker found herself in a one-on-one with keeper Joanne Butland, but her attempt fell wide to the right of the target.

Again in the 13th minute, a home side

WORLD LEGENDS HERE FOR OZ CUP

The two most highly decorated teams in international women's soccer history will be gracing our shores for the 2nd Australia Cup this coming December.

The world's most recognisable team, USA, join 1995 World Champions Norway plus the Czech Republic in what has grown to a four-nation tournament.

The matches, expected to be doubleheaders, will be played between 3-12 December with venues to be finalised in the coming weeks.

USA capped a decade of dominance by winning the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup before a record crowd of 90,185 fans last month.

Their current championship sits alongside the 1991 World Cup title and the gold medal from the Atlanta Olympic Games.

Norway are the only nation to boast a superior win-draw-loss record against the US (11-1-10) and will seek to avenge their fourth placing in USA '99, their worst ever major championship result.

The Norwegians finished runners-up to the USA in 1991, and took the bronze medal in Atlanta 1996.

AWSA Chief Executive Warren Fisher said, "The domestic program will step up to a new level with the Australia Cup, both in a technical sense and in terms of pre-Olympic marketing opportunities."

"Local fans will see the Matildas play each of the 2000 Olympic qualified nations in the coming year. We thought it would be nice to kick things off with the two most successful nations on earth.

The sport will give the Australian public every opportunity to support the Matildas with as many as fourteen home internationals in the coming year."

Team USA toured Australia in February 1997 in the groundbreaking Ram Sports Cup, a three-test series which attracted over 15,000 fans.

Little is known of the Czech Republic who are starting on the long road to qualification for the 2003 World Cup, whilst this will also be Norway's first visit to Australia.

HEPPERLIN ELEVENTH

ACT midfielder Peita-Claire Hepperlin received an eleventh hour call-up last Monday week to join the Australian U21 Team departing less than 24 hours later for Iceland for the Nordic Cup.

The 17-year-old World Cup Team member replaced Northern NSW's 16-year-old defender Rachael Alley, a late withdrawal.

"The Olympic Athlete Program has the flexibility to enable us to call on players in these types of last minute situations," said AWSA Chief Executive Warren Fisher.

Hepperlin, captain for the Australian Youth

Team tour to Holland last October, adds a little more experience to the very young combination.

She joins other OAP players Joanne Butland, Tracie McGovern, Kim Revell, and Natalie Thomas.

However, the average age of the team is just 18.9 years, including the two allowable overage players.

Alley is the second withdrawal from the original team, Sarah Walsh pulling out with a serious knee injury the previous week, and replaced by ACT striker Kim Channing.

NOW FOR THE NORDIC CUP

Australia's young Nordic Cup combination face the greatest of challenges as they enter the world's highest-rated international youth event.

The opposition will certainly be the toughest and most experienced that Australia has ever played against at under age level.

The lessons learned and experience gained will be invaluable for the future careers of these youngsters.

Without their World Cup players, Australia will be fielding probably the youngest and least-capped team in the tournament.

Their Scandinavian opponents are at least guaranteed this tournament every year in their calendar, and are expected to have their strongest teams in Iceland for the event.

The European nations and the USA have easier

access and much more regular competition for their youth level teams.

The Aussies have now an idea of how Iceland will play in the Cup, and can summarise that Sweden and Norway would play a similar style to their senior counterparts, traditionally a very direct, long-ball system.

Australia will however be concentrating mainly on their own performance, focussing on possession and technical play.

Norway is expected to easily top Group 1 as reigning champions and 1997 runners-up. On both these previous finals, their opponent was the USA.

The Australians first face Sweden in the early hours of this morning (Tue — Australian time), then hosts Iceland followed by Norway and the playoffs.

NORDIC CUP DRAW 1999

Group 1

Iceland
Australia
Sweden
Norway

Group 2

USA
Germany
Denmark
Finland

Finland v Denmark 2.30pm Borgarnesvöllur

USA v Germany 4.30pm Borgarnesvöllur

6 August

Germany v Finland 2.30pm Kopavogsvöllur

Denmark v USA 2.30pm Fjallnisvöllur

2 August

Iceland v Norway 2.30pm Hlíðarendi

AUSTRALIA v Sweden

4.30pm Hlíðarendi

USA v Finland 2.30pm Stjornuvöllur

Germany v Denmark 4.30pm Stjornuvöllur

4 August

Norway v Sweden 2.30pm Akranesvöllur

Iceland v AUSTRALIA

4.30pm Akranesvöllur

AUSTRALIA v Norway

4.30pm Fjallnisvöllur

Sweden v Iceland 4.30pm Kopavogsvöllur

8 August

7th Place Playoff 10.30am KR-völlur

5th Place Playoff 10.30am Kaplakrikavöllur

3rd Place Playoff 12.30pm Kaplakrikavöllur

Final 3.00pm Laugardalsvöllur (national stadium)

VICTORIAN LEAGUES



CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 20

Northcote City 0 - Melbourne City 5
Springvale City 2 - Lalor United 2
Western Suburbs 1 - Oakleigh 2
Doncaster Rovers 1 - Richmond 1
Westgate 1 - Yarraville Glory 1
Kingston City 1 - Werribee City 1
Heidelberg United 2 - North Geelong Warriors 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oakleigh	20	13	4	3	42	20	43
Heidelberg United	20	13	4	3	45	24	43
Lalor United	20	11	5	4	41	26	38
Westgate	20	11	3	6	35	27	36
Western Suburbs	20	8	4	8	32	29	28
Doncaster Rovers	20	7	6	7	37	33	27
Yarraville Glory	20	7	6	7	34	32	27
Springvale City	20	7	4	9	28	30	25
Richmond	20	6	7	7	27	32	25
Nth Geelong Warriors	20	5	8	7	29	31	23
Northcote City	20	5	2	12	41	48	20
Melbourne City	20	6	2	12	30	42	20
Kingston City	20	5	4	11	22	45	19
Werribee City	20	3	5	12	20	44	14

ROUND 21 FIXTURES

Friday August 6
Oakleigh v Heidelberg United (kick off 8.30pm)
Saturday August 7
Yarraville Glory v Doncaster Rovers
Sunday August 8
Werribee City v Westgate
Melbourne City v Kingston City
Richmond v Western Suburbs
North Geelong Warriors v Springvale City
Lalor United v Northcote City

DIVISION 2 - ROUND 20

East Richmond 1 - Essendon 5
Satellite City Rovers 0 - Frankston Pines 3
Croydon City Arrows 4 - Thomastown/Regent 1
Geelong 0 - Knox City 4
Frankston Strikers 8 - Ringwood City 0
Altona City 2 - Cranbourne Comets 1
Old Scotch Waverley 1 - Diamond Valley United 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essendon	20	14	6	0	57	14	48
Frankston Pines	19	12	5	2	51	21	41
Knox City	20	10	4	6	33	19	34
Geelong	20	9	5	6	34	38	32
Altona City	20	9	3	8	21	31	30
Old Scotch Waverley	19	7	7	5	20	23	28
East Richmond	20	7	7	6	27	31	28
Frankston Strikers	20	7	4	9	40	29	25
Cranbourne Comets	20	6	7	7	34	32	25
Satellite City Rovers	20	5	5	10	19	36	20
Ringwood City	20	5	5	10	24	44	20
Thomastown/Regent	20	5	4	11	31	41	19
Diamond Valley United	20	3	7	10	21	38	16
Croydon City Arrows	20	3	5	12	22	37	14

ROUND 21 FIXTURES

Saturday August 7
Diamond Valley United v Altona City
Cranbourne Comets v Frankston Strikers
Essendon v Old Scotch Waverley
Ringwood City v Geelong
Knox City v Croydon City Arrows
Thomastown/Regent v Satellite City Rovers
Frankston Pines v East Richmond

DIVISION 3 - ROUND 20

Banyule City 1 - North Coburg United 2
Laverton Park 3 - Mooroolbark 4
Stonnington City 7 - Bell Park 1
Moreland City 5 - Broadmeadows City 5
South Springvale 2 - Fitzroy City 2
Williamstown 1 - Keilor Park 1
Pascoe Vale 1 - South Wantirna 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stonnington City	20	13	5	2	52	25	44
South Wantirna	20	12	4	4	37	18	40
Fitzroy City	20	10	8	2	41	23	38

South Springvale	20	9	10	1	37	15	37
North Coburg United	20	11	3	6	37	29	36
Moreland City	20	9	5	6	37	29	32
Laverton Park	20	8	7	5	36	29	31
Mooroolbark	20	6	5	9	23	36	23
Pascoe Vale	20	6	4	10	29	39	22
Williamstown	20	5	6	9	30	39	21
Keilor Park	20	6	2	12	24	34	20
Bell Park	20	3	6	11	23	46	15
Broadmeadows City	19	3	5	11	27	43	14
Banyule City	19	0	6	13	16	44	6

ROUND 21 FIXTURES

Saturday August 7
South Wantirna v Williamstown
Keilor Park v South Springvale
North Coburg United v Pascoe Vale
Fitzroy City v Moreland City
Broadmeadows City v Stonnington City
Bell Park v Laverton Park
Mooroolbark v Banyule City

DIVISION 4 - ROUND 20

Croxton Park 4 - Chelsea 1
Sunbury United 0 - Langwarrin 2
Clifton Hill United 1 - Geelong Rangers 3
Lyndale United 3 - Keysborough 2
Seaford United 3 - Corio 0
Sandringham City 3 - Melton 1
Lalor 2 - Nunawading City 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Langwarrin	20	18	1	1	69	16	55
Sandringham City	20	13	3	4	62	34	42
Seaford United	20	12	3	5	43	32	39
Lyndale United	19	11	4	4	41	28	37
Croxton Park	20	7	10	3	41	29	31
Melton	20	8	5	7	32	31	29
Sunbury United	20	8	3	9	35	35	27
Geelong Rangers	20	7	4	9	31	39	25
Lalor	19	6	4	9	30	41	22
Corio	20	5	5	10	26	45	20
Chelsea	20	4	5	11	29	50	17
Clifton Hill United	20	5	2	13	28	54	17
Keysborough	20	4	4	12	36	38	16
Nunawading City	20	3	3	14	23	54	12

ROUND 21 FIXTURES

Saturday August 7
Nunawading City v Sandringham City
Melton v Seaford United
Chelsea v Lalor
Corio v Lyndale United
Keysborough v Clifton Hill United
Geelong Rangers v Sunbury United
Langwarrin v Croxton Park



WOMEN'S LEAGUES

PREMIER DIVISION - ROUND 15

South Melbourne v Westvale - no result received
Heidelberg United v Endeavour United - no result received

Keilor Park 1 - Cranbourne A 8
Essendon A - bye
Manningham - bye

Table: - Cranbourne A 33, Manningham 27, Keilor Park 22, Westvale 17, South Melbourne 13, Essendon A 11, Heidelberg United 0, Endeavour United 0.

ROUND 16 FIXTURES

Sunday August 8
Essendon A v Keilor Park
Cranbourne A v Manningham
Endeavour United v South Melbourne
Heidelberg United - bye
Westvale - bye

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 15

NO RESULTS OR TABLE RECEIVED

ROUND 16 FIXTURES

Sunday August 8
Endeavour Hills v Knox County
Cranbourne B v Newborough/Yallourn
Ballarat Strikers v Seaford United
Yarraville Glory - bye
Waverley Taipans - bye

DIVISION 2 NORTH-WEST - ROUND 15

Eltham North 4 - Mill Park 2
Essendon B v Thornbury United - no result received
Laverton Park 2 - Ballarat City 4
Calder Strikers 2 - Brimbank 3
Fairfield Falcons A 2 - Brunswick City 1
Table: - Ballarat City 38, Brimbank 33, Laverton Park 31, Brunswick City 28, Eltham North 28, Calder Strikers 20, Fairfield Falcons A 17, Essendon B 9, Mill Park 7, Thornbury United 1.

ROUND 16 FIXTURES

Sunday August 8
Essendon B v Fairfield Falcons A
Brunswick City v Calder Strikers
Brimbank v Laverton Park
Ballarat City v Eltham North
Thornbury United v Mill Park

DIVISION 2 SOUTH-EAST - RND 15

Monash University v Frankston Pines - no result received
Springvale City 0 - Bentleigh Greens 4
South Wantirna 0 - Carrigbush 2
Gippsland Falcons - bye
Monbulk - bye
Table: - Bentleigh Greens 36, Carrigbush 28, Gippsland Falcons 21, Springvale City 20, Monash University 9, South Wantirna 8, Monbulk 7, Frankston Pines 0.

ROUND 16 FIXTURES

Sunday August 8
Monash University v Monbulk
Carrigbush v Springvale City
Bentleigh Greens v Gippsland Falcons
South Wantirna - bye
Frankston Pines - bye

DIVISION 3 NORTH-WEST - RND 15

North Reservoir 1 - Fairfield Falcons B 0
Maribyrnong United 4 - Diamond Valley United 0
La Trobe University 7 - Pascoe Vale 0
Melbourne Raiders v Deakin University - no result received
Melton - bye
Table: - North Reservoir 39, Melton 31, Melbourne Raiders 24, Fairfield Falcons B 19, La Trobe University 17, Pascoe Vale 15, Deakin University 13, Diamond Valley United 6, Maribyrnong United 5.

ROUND 16 FIXTURES

Sunday August 8
Maribyrnong United v Melbourne Raiders
Deakin University v Melton
Pascoe Vale v North Reservoir
Fairfield Falcons B v Diamond Valley United
La Trobe University - bye

DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST - RND 11

Sandringham City 0 - Box Hill Inter 2
Melbourne University 5 - East Bentleigh 0
Hampton Park 9 - Monash Gryphon 0
Crystal United - bye
Table: - Hampton Park 24, Box Hill Inter 23, Melbourne University 14, Monash Gryphon 12, Sandringham City 6, Crystal United 4, East Bentleigh 4.

ROUND 12 FIXTURES

Sunday August 8
Crystal United v Melbourne University
East Bentleigh v Sandringham City
Box Hill Inter v Hampton Park
Monash Gryphon - bye

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 17

South Caulfield 0 - Morwell Pegasus 7
Sydenham Park 1 - Endeavour United 2
North Sunshine Eagles 1 - Riversdale 2
Mitcham United 1 - Brunswick City 2
Springvale Condors 1 - Dandenong 2
Monbulk 0 - Templestowe Eagles 3
Table: - Endeavour United 46, Morwell Pegasus 41, Brunswick City 38, Sydenham Park 29, Riversdale 28, Mitcham United 21, Templestowe Eagles 20, North Sunshine Eagles 16, Monbulk 14, Dandenong 13, South Caulfield 10, Springvale Condors 6.

ROUND 18 FIXTURES

Saturday August 7
North Sunshine Eagles v Monbulk

Templestowe Eagles v Springvale Condors
Dandenong v Mitcham United
Brunswick City v Sydenham Park
Endeavour United v South Caulfield
Riversdale v Morwell Pegasus

DIVISION 2 NORTH-WEST - RND 17

Glenroy 3 - Broadmeadows United 3
Mill Park 0 - Hoppers Crossing 3
Meadow Park 1 - Melbourne University 2
University of Melbourne 1 - Somerton City 6
Keon Park 1 - Ballarat 1
South Yarra 0 - Elwood City 2
Table: - Hoppers Crossing 40, Glenroy 38, Elwood City 35, Somerton City 33, University of Melbourne 26, Ballarat 26, Broadmeadows United 20, Mill Park 19, Melbourne University 19, Keon Park 10, South Yarra 9, Meadow Park 7.

ROUND 18 FIXTURES

Saturday August 7
Meadow Park v South Yarra
Elwood City v Keon Park
Ballarat v University of Melbourne
Somerton City v Mill Park
Hoppers Crossing v Glenroy
Melbourne University v Broadmeadows United

DIVISION 2 SOUTH-EAST - RND 17

Monash University 1 - Doveton 4
Waverley Wanderers 3 - Noble Park 0
Newborough/Yallourn 1 - Ashburton 2
Dingley City 0 - Dandenong Inter 1
Braeside United 1 - Clayton 2
Heatherston United 3 - Brandon Park 1
Table: - Waverley Wanderers 38, Doveton 38, Clayton 38, Heatherston United 27, Dingley City 26, Newborough/Yallourn 23, Brandon Park 20, Ashburton 19, Braeside United 18, Dandenong Inter 15, Monash University 15, Noble Park 11.

ROUND 18 FIXTURES

Saturday August 7
Newborough/Yallourn v Heatherston United
Brandon Park v Braeside United
Clayton v Dingley City
Dandenong Inter v Waverley Wanderers
Noble Park v Monash University
Ashburton v Doveton

DIVISION 3 NORTH-WEST - RND 17

Brimbank 7 - Watsonia Heights 0
Darebin United 5 - West Preston 0
Brimbank City 0 - North Reservoir 0
North Glenroy 0 - Whittlesea United 0
Keilor United 3 - Flemington Falcons 1
La Trobe University 1 - Northern United 1
Table: - Whittlesea United 41, North Glenroy 35, Darebin United 31, Keilor United 28, Brimbank 28, Brimbank City 24, Flemington Falcons 21, La Trobe University 20, North Reservoir 19, Northern United 15, Watsonia Heights 14, West Preston 9.

ROUND 18 FIXTURES

Sunday August 8
Brimbank City v La Trobe University
Northern United v Keilor United
Flemington Falcons v North Glenroy
Whittlesea United v Darebin United
West Preston v Brimbank
North Reservoir v Watsonia Heights

DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST - RND 17

North Caulfield 6 - Collingwood City 1
Parkmore 0 - Rowville Eagles 8
Endeavour Hills 4 - Moreland United 1
Old Camberwell Grammar 2 - Newport United 2
Thornbury United 3 - Beaumaris 3
Noble Park United 1 - Ivanhoe United 2
Table: - North Caulfield 35, Noble Park United 33, Moreland United 32, Endeavour Hills 31, Collingwood City 26, Ivanhoe United 24, Rowville Eagles 23, Thornbury United 23, Old Camberwell Grammar 19, Beaumaris 15, Parkmore 9, Newport United 8.

ROUND 18 FIXTURES

Sunday August 8
Endeavour Hills v Noble Park United
Ivanhoe United v Thornbury United
Beaumaris v Old Camberwell Grammar
Newport United v Parkmore
Rowville Eagles v North Caulfield
Moreland United v Collingwood City

eat well  live well

PREMIER LEAGUE



ALBANS PUT 5 PAST SOUTH

PHOENIX STILL IN TROUBLE

SOUTH DANDENONG 1
ST ALBANS 5

By Kevin Christopher

St Albans Saints blew away lingering fears of relegation with an emphatic 5-1 victory over South Dandenong at a gloomy George Andrews Reserve on Saturday.

While the scoreline may have flattered the Saints, it again highlighted the defensive frailties which have afflicted South this season.

Without three top players in Billy Wright, Robert Runje and Carlo Villani, it was easy to understand the pre-match trepidation of the home supporters.

After a quiet opening, Kon Sianidis gave the visitors an 11th minute lead, heading home a Greg Saric cross at the back post, and the Saints continued to be good value for their lead with Martin Raspudic heading a Damian Vojtek corner against the bar on the half hour mark.

South responded with a flurry of good chances, with Idriz Pelja and Ahmet Garpinar both having their shots deflected for corners before Saints' keeper Marijan Vunderl produced a marvellous double save, parrying the initial shot from Lirim Rasimi and then smothering the rebound from Festim Zekirija. The ball finally fell invitingly for Viktor Memeti who blasted wide when an empty net beckoned.

Their profligate finishing was punished just before half time when Greg Saric's curling shot from outside the area deceived Souths' keeper Chris Roche and gave the Saints a 2-0 lead at half time.

The match was as good as over in the 49th minute when Harry Karl timed his forward run beautifully to beat Roche one-on-one.

To their credit, Souths didn't completely collapse, continuing to press forward and deserved a goal 13 minutes from time when Valinat Mucaj's cross was tucked away by Memeti.

The home team were denied another goal shortly after when Zekirija tapped in Rasimi's header from a Mucaj cross, only to be flagged for offside.

Karl was thoroughly enjoying himself by this late stage and with four minutes remaining he set off down the right flank and squared the ball for an unmarked Vojtek to convert.

Right on full time, Karl himself was in a similar position to capitalise on good work down the right from substitute Ilija Dragicevic.

South: Roche, Moodie, Garpinar (Mucaj), Lumanovski, Rasimi, Tarevski (Mezensof), Kirichian, Pelja, Van Egmond, Zekirija (Ibraimi), V.Memeti.

Saints: Vunderl, I.Rados, J.Cuze, Raspudic, Movric, Saric (Dragicevic), K.Razov, S.Rados (M.Cuze), Vojtek (Basic), Karl, Sianidis.

Referee: Rick Arturi

Votes: 3- Karl (StA), 2- Saric (StA), 1- J.Cuze (StA).

PRESTON 0
PORT MELBOURNE 2

By George Koukeris

Peter Kakos and Stavros Dimas led Port Melbourne to a valuable 2-0 victory over Preston in what should have been one of the matches of the season.

Gold Medal contender, Warren Spink, initiated the proceedings with some deadly footwork in front of goal. Spink was well backed up by Tony Ugunovski and Josip Kozic as the three of them created a shot on goal at every opportunity.

In the 7th minute, Nick Tsaltas drove a long ball to Kakos just outside the 18 yard box. Kakos switched to set up Dimas whose shot was so strong, it bounced off the crossbar and almost to the half-way line.

Waiting for the ball in the centre was Kozic, who turned on a sixpence and charged straight for goal with only Jamie Cooper in his path. But Kozic too, struck the bar.

In the second stanza, the Sharks emerged the more determined to win. In the 56th minute, the Sharks took the lead in somewhat controversial circumstances. A non-offside ruling by assistant referee Theo Gyannios allowed Kakos to get in a shot that was skillfully deflected for a corner by Lupce Acevski.

Latinopoulos delivered the corner to set Dimas in

prime position to find the net.

In the 73rd minute the Sharks sealed the three points with a second goal. Kakos took a cross from Evis Heath, rounded Anton Kovacic before slotting the ball neatly past the guard of Acevski.

The Sharks now put pressure on leaders Green Gully with this three points, Preston on the other hand must settle for third spot.

Lions: Acevski, Sterjovski (Dimeski), Kovacic, Lisolajski, Filipovski (Graham), Ogenovski, Kozic, Emsovski, Stojcevski (Talevski), Ugunovski, Spink.

Sharks: Cooper, Knezevic, Vargas, Latinopoulos, Fak, Tzirtis, Tsaltas, Kakos (Costoglou), Heath, Dimas, Pappas.

Referee: Nestor Zachariadis

Votes: 3- Dimas (PM), 2- Kakos (PM), 1- Vargas (PM).

BENTLEIGH 5
WESTVALE 0

By Chris Elysee

Bentleigh totally eclipsed an inept Westvale outfit on Sunday, with striker Juan Nilo providing the crowd with a performance that they are sure to remember for a long time.

Nilo scored a hat trick in the Greens 5-0 win and was a constant menace up front, with Westvale not being able to contain his brilliance.

Right from the first whistle, you could sense that Westvale were not up to it, as Harry Micheil hit the post with 'keeper Robert Acteson beaten in the 1st minute of play.

After going close a couple more times, Bentleigh's persistence paid off in the 17th minute when a Micheil run and shot from the left hand side found Nilo, whose nonchalant finish to the 'keeper's left hand side oozed class. Bentleigh were in once again in the same minute as John Pappettas finished off a lovely Bentleigh move by scoring to the 'keeper's right.

Jimmy Kotsovolos was instrumental in Bentleigh's next goal as he released Nilo, who then rounded Acteson and tucked the ball under his despairing dive, making it 3-0 at the half-time break.

The second half didn't get much better for Westvale, as Bentleigh continued to toy with the opposition. Bentleigh's fourth goal came after a Gary Hasler back-heel at the back was intercepted by George Kalimeris, with his beautifully curled right foot shot beating Acteson at his far post.

The scoring was complete in the 73rd minute when Nilo made a mockery of the Westvale defence, leaving Hasler for dead with a brilliant turn of speed, then thumping the ball in the top right hand corner of the goal.

The scoreline could've been far worse but for some great saves from Acteson and some easy goals not being tucked away by Bentleigh.

Still, 5-0 is a comprehensive scoreline in anyone's language, with this defeat sure to sound out loud and clear to the Westvale hierarchy how much work has to be done for season 2000.

Greens: Tsianakas, Karapatsos, Micheil, Mladenovic, Constantinou, Drakos (Lenetis), Rossios, Kalimeris (Kourkoutzelos), Pappettas, Nilo, Kotsovolos (Grella).

Westvale: Acteson, Hasler, Zach, McAleer, Timotheou, Brown, Karkaletsis, Culina, Novacevski (Mitandis), Cvetkovski (Squillaciotti), Mavropoulos.

Votes: 3- Nilo (BG), 2- Micheil (BG), 1- Kalimeris (BG)

ALTONA EAST 0
BULLEEN 2

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Two goals in as many minutes for Bulleen ensured that Altona East Phoenix were still very much in the relegation frame.

After the weekend's results, the Phoenix are still one point out of the drop zone but face an anxious last couple of weeks of the Premier League season.

Bulleen got their goals late in the game, both thanks to some less than perfect defending.

Altona East began like a side playing for survival. They hit an upright in the 13th minute when Nick Papadopoulos' overhead effort beat Sean Keogh but

scraped the post.

Papadopoulos came close again soon after, volleying just over the bar.

The Kings, with only pride to play for, themselves were denied by a post in the 33rd minute when John Waddell's quick free kick was too good for Sam Frangos but bounced away off the post.

Waddell came close again early in the second half, this time his shot was cleared off the line by Ross Antoniadis.

With just under fifteen minutes to go Bulleen took command.

Vlad Babic scored their first goal, heading in Robert Stojcevski's knock-down from Danny Gnjidic's cross.

Just a minute later, Gnjidic got into the action, prodding in Agim Sherifovski's cross.

Phoenix: Frangos, R.Antoniadis, Dimitrelos, De Amicis, Schwal (Kapulica), Groidis, T.Antoniadis, Davis (L.Catalano), Bartol, Papadopoulos, Angelos (F.Catalano).

Kings: Keogh, Della Rocca, Babic, Tartaglia, Waddell, Gnjidic, Sherifovski (Stojcevski), Grbac (Everetts), Rusmir, Thomas, Vucinic (Valentic).

Referee: Perry Mur

Votes: 3- Grbac (BK), 2- Waddell (BK), 1- Della Rocca (BK)

FAWKNER 3
SPRINGVALE W.E. 2

By Milan Ninovic

Springvale White Eagles are still in deep relegation trouble after losing 2-3 to Fawkner Blues at Smith Reserve on Sunday.

After falling behind 0-3, the White Eagles did come

back but left it too late to salvage anything out of the game.

Fawkner were all over Springvale for 70 minutes of the match. Josip Biskic was pulling the strings for the Blues and he earned the penalty that led to their first goal in the 20th minute.

Biskic had been brought down by a clumsy challenge from Springvale's 'keeper Borisav Simic. Frank Tramontana had no trouble converting the kick.

Five minutes later, Fawkner doubled their lead with a goal from Peter Psarros. Peter Bordignon's cross to the far post set up Psarros for a header that Simic perhaps should have dealt with better.

Psarros scored a third for Fawkner ten minutes into the second half.

Again Bordignon supplied the cross but this time Psarros headed past a back-peddling Simic from 20 metres.

Zlatko Mihajlovic pulled a goal back in the 72nd minute from a comfortable tap-in.

Jim Gacovski then added another for Springvale with two minutes left after a terrific solo run and well placed shot.

Blues: Gonzales (Papas), Tramontana, Grimaud, P.Ferrante, Schipano, Vazzocchi, Bordignon, Biskic (Di Sauro), Psarros, Duzel (Alexopoulos), Collins.

White Eagles: Simic, Mlinar, Oter, Armour, Mandic, Gacovski, Z.Mihajlovic, Styczen (Calomino), M.Mihajlovic (Cohadzie), Rikanovic (Nikolic), Poutakidis.

Referee: Peter Ralevski

Votes: 3- Psarros (FB), 2- Tramontana (FB), 1- Gacovski (SWE)

eat well  live well

ROUND 24

South Dandenong 1 (Memeti) - St Albans Saints 5 (Sianidis, Saric, Karl 2, Vojtek)

Preston Lions 0 - Port Melbourne Sharks 2 (Dimas, Kakos)

Altona East Phoenix 0 - Bulleen Inter Kings 2 (Babic, Gnjidic)

Bentleigh Greens 5 (Nilo 3, Pappettas, Rossios) - Westvale 0

Fawkner Blues 3 (Tramontana, Psarros 2) - Springvale White Eagles 2 (Z.Mihajlovic, Gacovski)

Green Gully v Sunshine and Melbourne Raiders v Altona Magic played Monday night

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Green Gully Cavaliers	23	14	7	2	48	20	49
Port Melbourne Sharks	24	15	4	5	54	28	49
Preston Lions	24	14	2	8	45	34	44
Bentleigh Greens	24	12	6	6	61	30	42
Fawkner Blues	24	12	4	8	40		
Bulleen Inter Kings	24	9	7	8	35	31	34
St Albans Saints	24	10	3	11	40	35	33
Melbourne Raiders	23	9	5	9	33	41	32
Altona Magic	23	8	5	10	32	42	29
Altona East Phoenix	24	7	6	11	26	36	27
Spring. White Eagles	24	7	5	12	35	39	26
South Dandenong	24	6	6	12	41	57	24
Westvale	24	4	7	13	30	64	19
Sunshine Georgies	23	4	3	16	24	56	15

ROUND 25 FIXTURES

Sunday August 8

Port Melbourne Sharks v South Dandenong - kick off 3pm at Anderson Reserve

St Albans Saints v Melbourne Raiders - kick off 3pm at Churchill Reserve

Altona Magic v Green Gully Cavaliers - kick off 3pm at Paisley Park

Sunshine Georgies v Fawkner Blues - kick off 3pm at Chaplin Reserve

Springvale White Eagles v Bentleigh Greens - kick off 3pm at Serbian Sports Centre

Monday August 9

Westvale v Altona East Phoenix - kick off 8.15pm at Paisley Park

Bulleen Inter Kings v Preston Lions - kick off 8.15pm at Veneto Club





Qld Soccer Federation

PERRY PARK

Abbotsford Road, Mayne, Queensland 4006

Tel: 07 3252 5327

Fax: 07 3252 1137

An era ended in Queensland soccer last week when one of the games most high profile administrators closed the door on his involvement with the Brisbane strikers.

When Ian Brusasco AM decided to follow close friend and fellow Strikers board member Frank Speare into retirement, the game in this state lost one of its most known soccer identities.

Brusasco wasn't just a Strikers board member. He was an institution in the game in Queensland and Australia.

A former Chairman of Soccer Australia for two years (1989-1990), a life member of the Queensland Soccer Federation and

Queensland Soccer Club, former

President of the Queensland Soccer Federation, an office which he held for eight years (1980 - 1988), Brusasco was held in the highest of regard by the soccer community.

But the constant battle to breathe life into the Strikers wearied a man who had devoted his life to the game he loved.

Brusasco admitted the Strikers inability to capitalise on the 1996/97 national league grand final win had played a major part in his decision.

He also said that the loss of Frank Farina and the way he left the club two season ago was also a contributing factor.

If not for the input of Brusasco, Speare and Clem Jones — the so-called three wise men of the Strikers — there's no telling where the game in this state would be today.

Brusasco was the driving force behind the Strikers adopting their mantle when he attended a lunch with a couple of marketing whiz's where they came up with the Strikers concept.

He helped lure Queensland's favourite son Frank Farina, back to the state to lead the Strikers charge to grand final glory.

It was the pinnacle of his association with the club as over 40,000 rabid soccer fans packed Suncorp Stadium but said the club didn't make the most of the win.

"It was one of the great days of my life but when I reflect on it, I don't think we were ready to win a championship," Brusasco said.

"You shouldn't be able to get 40,000 people at a game; close the gates and lock people out and the next year not be able to capitalise on it."

As he departed from the game, Brusasco admitted there were some major changes he would like to see in the game in this country.

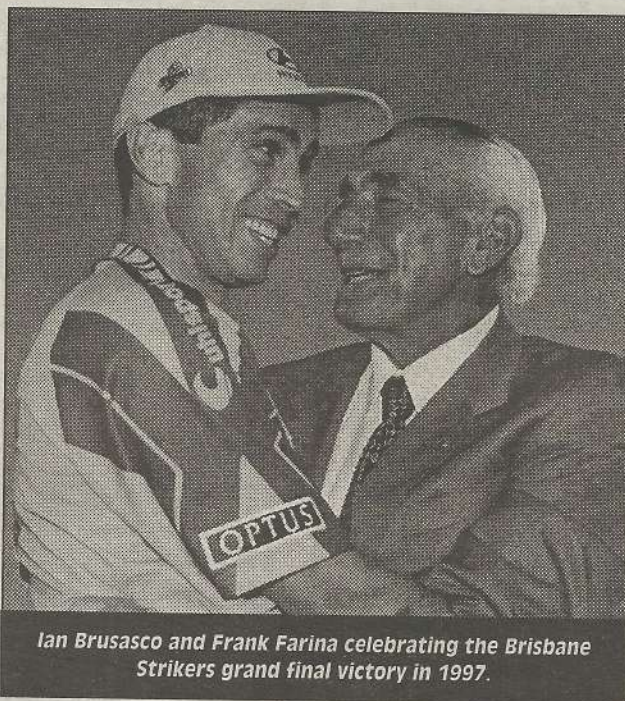
Among them he said: — he would like to see a shake-up of Soccer Australia including the coaching structure; and, — the state government to help national league clubs such as the Brisbane Strikers as they battle to make an impact at national league level.

However, Brusasco has not severed his contact with the sport entirely, he remains the Government appointee as chairman of the Brisbane Olympic Football Taskforce for the 2000 Olympics and cites the Brisbane Strikers Grand Final as the reason that Brisbane was chosen to host a full round of Olympic football and a quarterfinal.

In other news, the Queensland Soccer Federation held a presentation evening last Monday evening, to honour five Queensland members of Soccer Australia's Hall of Fame who were unable to attend the inaugural function held in Sydney last February.

Those being honoured are Cliff Sander, Gordon "Bunny" Nunn and

BRUSACO CALLS IT A DAY



Ian Brusasco and Frank Farina celebrating the Brisbane Strikers grand final victory in 1997.

Graham McMillan, all former players with Sander and McMillan teammates in the 1956 Olympics and Nunn gaining 16 Australian caps during the late 1940's.

Also Des Miles who gained his FIFA badge in 1977 will be recognised for his services to the referees movement and Pam Gilbert for her 30 years of service to Junior Soccer.

Astunning 3-2 win by Ipswich Knights over league leaders Rochdale has suddenly opened up the Queensland premier league championship battle. Rochdale had held a commanding five points lead over nearest rivals Gold Coast before the match with five games in the season remaining.

But that has now been whittled down substantially following wins from second placed Gold Coast and Taringa.

Gold Coast moved within two points of Rochdale after taking the points with a 1-nil win over Wynnum, courtesy of a Peter Dwyer penalty while Taringa are four points off the pace and with a game in hand against the Knights after beating Toowoomba 2-nil.

The upcoming Taringa-Ipswich catch up game could prove the match of the season as it will have a major bearing in deciding both the premiership and semi-final placings.

Coach John Ogden's prophecy that Taringa can still win the title became closer to reality after midfielder Scott Robertson and striker Des Hughes scored from the penalty spot.

Ipswich's win propelled them into the top four, leapfrogging the inconsistent Brisbane Lions who suffered a surprise 3-2 defeat by Bundaberg Waves. Rochdale trailed 2-nil at half time and only had themselves to blame for not taking an early lead in a match, which featured three penalties.

Rochdale's Clayton Koch had the chance to give his side an early lead

after 10 minutes but his penalty attempt was brilliantly saved by Ipswich keeper Sam Ferguson down low to his right.

Ipswich eventually broke the deadlock midway through the opening half when striker Peter Vogler landed the first of a double.

Vogler capitalised on a miskick from Rochdale defender Damian Harris and stood up keeper Graham Ross before slotting home his first while his second came five minutes later when he headed home a corner.

Ipswich took a commanding grip on the game shortly after halftime when the visitors were awarded the second penalty of the game after striker John Clark was brought down in the box.

Unlike Koch, Ipswich midfielder Peter McKendrick made no mistake from the spot.

Rochdale, who surprisingly started regulars Matt Olley and Steve Fitzsimmons off the bench, got back into the game with half an hour to go when Olley came on and tucked away his side's first goal.

The goal gave the homeside much needed confidence and only ten minutes later David Pilic made it 3-2 when he scored from the penalty spot.

Rochdale sensed an equaliser was on the cards in the final ten minutes and threw everything in attack but time eventually ran out for the premiership favourites.

Meanwhile Brisbane City stayed in strong contention for a semi-final berth but still remain in sixth place following a hard fought 2-1 away win against Mt Gravatt.

Defender Mark Battistin gave Brisbane City the early lead after only 10 minutes when his free kick took a deflection off a defensive wall into the net.

Mr. Gravatt, who have been struggling financially off the field as well as on the park in their first season back in the premier league, drew level after half time through Adam Watson.

However, Brisbane City, who have been playing with a lot more purpose in the past few weeks despite a horror run of injuries, grabbed the winner through striker Royce Brownlie.

Brisbane City have had the worst run of injuries in the league than any other side and had to call on the youth team keeper Peter Gaffney as a late replacement for injured Adam Serafin.

Serafin also had been playing in Brisbane City's youth team but was called in and had performed superbly when City lost regular first team keeper Danny Duke through injury and reserve grade keeper Ben Appledorn overseas.

Appledorn has been away with the Australian University side in Spain.

Brisbane City had hoped Appledorn would be back in goals against Mt Gravatt but he returned from Spain injured and when Serafin was also injured last week, the club had to call on the fifth keeper for the year.

However, coach Bobby Hamilton, who praised his fill-in keepers, will soon welcome back Duke which will again make Brisbane City a top four force.

ROUND 24

08-08	Toowoomba Utd	v	Mt Gravatt	2.45pm
08-08	Brisbane City	v	Rochdale Rov	2.45pm
08-08	Ipswich Knights	v	Wynnum	2.45pm
08-08	Gold Coast	v	B'berg Waves	2.45pm
08-08	Brisbane Lions	v	Taringa Rovers	4.00pm

QUEENSLAND RESULTS & TABLES

XXXX LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Rochdale Rov	23	14	2	7	53	35	18	44
Gold Coast	23	11	9	3	44	31	13	42
Taringa Rovers	22	12	4	6	40	21	19	40
IPSW Knights	22	11	5	6	35	25	10	38
Brisbane Lions	23	11	4	8	48	37	11	37
Brisbane City	22	11	3	8	39	29	10	36
Bunderberg Waves	23	7	5	11	35	38	-3	26
Wynnum	23	5	3	15	32	55	-23	18
Toowoomba Utd	22	4	6	12	20	45	-25	18
Mt Gravatt	23	4	5	14	31	61	-30	17

ROUND 23 SCORES

Taringa Rovers	.....2	Toowoomba Utd	.....0
Mt Gravatt	.....1	Brisbane City	.....2
B'berg Waves	.....3	Brisbane Lions	.....2
Wynnum	.....0	Gold Coast	.....1
Rochdale Rov	.....2	IPSW Knights	.....3

DIVISION ONE NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
North Star	19	12	3	4	48	23	25	39
Albany Creek	19	11	5	3	41	25	16	38
Pine Rivers Utd	20	11	3	6	37	21	16	36
Eastern Subs	18	9	6	3	38	25	13	33
Uni of Qld	21	9	3	9	38	39	-1	30
Newmarket	19	8	5	6	34	30	4	29
The Gap	19	5	2	12	31	50	-19	17
Grange Thistle	19	3	5	11	19	47	-28	14
Mitchelton	20	1	4	15	16	42	-26	7

ROUND 23 SCORES

Albany Creek	.....1	The Gap	.....0
Mitchelton	.....0	Uni of Qld	.....0
Eastern Subs	.....1	North Star	.....1
Grange Thistle	.....1	Newmarket	.....4
Pine Rivers Utd - Bye			

DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Capalaba	20	14	1	5	37	21	16	43
Rocklea Utd	20	13	3	4	59	29	30	42
Souths Utd	19	12	3	4	48	21	27	39
Slacks Creek	20	8	5	7	46	45	1	29
Beenleigh	19	7	4	8	38	41	-3	25
Inala City	19	7	2	10	29	47	-18	23
Redlands Utd	20	6	3	11	27	43	-16	21
Olympic Utd	19	6	0	13	31	41	-10	18
Acacia Ridge	20	3	3	14	21	48	-27	12

ROUND 23 SCORES

Redlands Utd	.....1	Capalaba	.....3
Acacia Ridge	.....3	Rocklea Utd	.....2
Olympic Utd	.....1	Souths Utd	.....3
Slacks Creek	.....3	Beenleigh	.....4
Inala City - Bye			



SOCCER CANBERRA

UNIT 2/3 PHIPPS CLOSE, DEAKIN, ACT. 2600

PH: 06 260 4000 FAX: 06 260 4999

Information Line: 1902 220 074 (Calls charged at 50c min — higher rates for mobile public telephones)

Internet Home Page HTTP: www.ACTSF.ORG.AU

By Graham Cooke

DEAKIN PLANS NEW GROUND — SUPER LEAGUE BID

Canberra Deakin have announced a major redevelopment of their Deakin Oval ground — and a bid to rejoin the NSW Super League when it converts to summer soccer in 2000-01.

Club secretary Bernie Lustica says the moves is an attempt to rebuild the prestige and reputation of the club, which was a member of the NSW competition from 1988-94, reaching three grand finals and winning two challenge cups.

He said the ground redevelopment will be substantial, and will be partly financed by the use of some of the area for a townhouse development.

"The plans have received the support of the ACT Government and will be part of an overall scheme, incorporating the Deakin Shopping Centre," he said.

"The whole area should benefit from it."

Lustica said the two soccer pitches currently on the oval will be reduced to one enclosed floodlit ground with a 3000-seater grandstand.

Local residents have been consulted. On Deakin's proposal to rejoin the Superleague, Lustica promised full cooperation

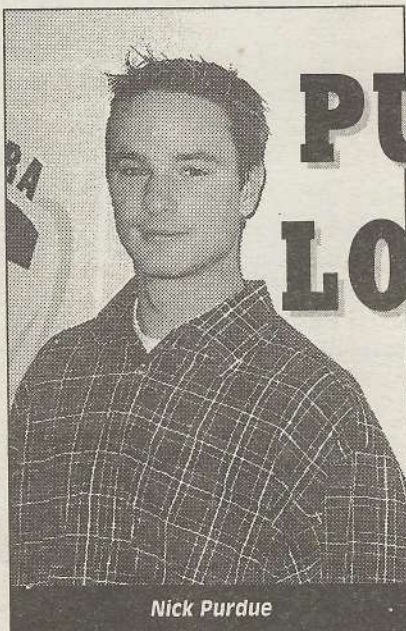
with Ericsson Cup club Canberra Cosmos. "What this means is that local players who are not quite ready for the national competition will have an outlet," he said.

"I see no reason why there should not be transfers between the two teams on a routine basis as needs arise."

Deakin was expelled from the Super League at the end of the 1994 season. The official reason at the time was given as the impending entry of the Cosmos into the Ericsson Cup, rendering a Canberra team's continued participation in the NSW competition as unnecessary.

However, it was no secret the NSW Soccer Federation was unhappy with Deakin's conduct, especially one incident where a suspended player was included, under a false name, in a youth grade line-up.

Lustica, who was overseas at the time, said 1994 "is a long time ago ... I believe the NSWFF will view it as water under the bridge, and that when they see we have a new administration with concrete plans for ground improvements, our case will be judged on its merits."



Nick Purdue

PURDUE PUTS LOVE ON HOLD

But not without Claudia, 19, who he had met during his stay.

"I asked her to come to Australia and she gave up her job as a doctor's assistant to follow me here," he said.

However, the young couple misunderstood the terms of the electronic tourist visa which Claudia was given at the airport.

"We were told it allowed multiple entry and re-entry for a year,"

Purdue said, "What we didn't know was that any one stay could last only three months."

Claudia was here for almost a year and it was only when she went in to see about renewing the visa that she was told she had overstayed."

As a result Claudia has had to go back to Holland, leaving Purdue with the task of negotiating a mountain of paperwork in order to secure her return.

"I want her back, she is the girl I intend to marry," he said. "We have a strong and lasting relationship and I am sure we will overcome this."

"She's become a great Cosmos fan, and I know that in the long term she has the skills which will make a great contribution to Australia."

"I hope she'll be back with me by Christmas."

Meanwhile, Purdue has taken steps to secure his own future by re-signing for the Cosmos and taking the job of Soccer Canberra development officer in succession to the departed Norman Kelly.

The additional duties give him a year-round income, and with the Cosmos officially part time and training at nights, he can work during business hours.

"I used to think I could never be a coach, but after taking classes of kids at schools around the place, I'm not so sure," he said.

"I get a great buzz out of teaching them the basics — and it's great when they remember me and come up to me in the street."

The young man who announced to his parents he was quitting school for soccer two months before his HSC examination; who went alone to face the rigours of European football at the age of 17, and who took the plunge by signing for a team which had gone 16 games without a point in last season's Ericsson Cup, is embarking on yet another stage of his career.

Capital City Suns, founded just three years ago, reached the top of the heap in ACT Premier League soccer on Sunday when they took over the leadership of the first division.

The achievement was hardly made in style, the Suns struggling until late in the game to record a 2-1 win over lowly Burns Club, but when the news came through that Canberra Olympic had beaten previous leaders Monaro 1-0, the celebrations began.

However, Monaro's loss carries a warning to the top four, as Olympic continue their relentless progress. Canberra Deakin also won, and Weston Creek Royals who sunk to fourth place after a 1-0 loss to Belconnen United, are beginning to look vulnerable.

Monaro included Michael Musitano, back from overseas, in their line-up, and the Cosmos striker looked sharp early on when he cut inside and forced a save from Angelo Konstantinou.

He went close again with a header over the bar in the 24th minute, but it was Olympic who took the lead a couple of minutes from half time. If there is an award for pass of the season it should go to Takis Arvanitis for his 40-metre ball to Ellie Salloun, allowing the young front-man to spring the offside trap and shoot past Tony Guarino.

It was a blow from which Monaro seemed incapable of recovery. Their second-half performance was lacklustre and had Olympic's finishing been up to the rest of their game, the margin would have been far greater.

As it was Njegosh Popovich, Robbie Grande, and Pino Seminara can all reflect on missed opportunities, while at the other end Monaro's efforts were limited to one attempt by John Rakic as a lack of quality ball progressively starved Musitano out of the game.

A bitterly disappointed Monaro coach, Andrew Monterosso, predicted "major changes" for the following week. "We played poorly, especially in the second half — some of my big name players have got to pull their socks up," he said.

"I'm not putting up with this."

Olympic team boss Baz Giampaolo said he had been worried by a slow start, "but after a while we began to get the rhythm and intensity and I think we ran over the top of them in the second half."

"The pleasing aspect is that it has been a few games since we have conceded a goal, the concern is that we are missing too many," he said.

"That could hurt us in a close finish."

Without the suspended Tony Lemeza, Suns struggled to

record their seventh straight win. The Burns Club scored first — just their 10th goal of the season — through Alan Strachan.

That lead lasted only a few minutes, Ilija Prenzovski equalising from the penalty spot, but it was only in the closing minutes that the Suns grabbed the winner, from Japanese student Yuki Onda.

With Matt Whyte sent off after 11 minutes, 10-man Belconnen United battled to a 1-0 win over Weston Creek, Scott Manson scoring with a solo effort in which he first beat two defenders before slotting his shot home.

United coach Lino Fiorese paid tribute to Manson, Ray Junna and goalkeeper Rade Kosanovic as his outstanding players.

Deakin kept their play-off hopes alive by recording a routine 4-0 win over University of Canberra. Deakin were without their main strikers — Vince Bodo was suspended and Paul Ivnic on duty with ACT Schoolboys — but goals from defenders Mladin Rogic and James Modric, backed by Marcello Munoz and Ben Deighan, saw them home.

And bottom club Queanbeyan City ended a horror run of 14 consecutive losses with a 4-0 win over Gungahlin Juventus, whose season has collapsed in ruins over the last few weeks.

Steve Roberts grabbed a hat-trick and Nick Purdue the other goal as City claimed their first league points in almost 12 months.

ACT PREMIER LEAGUE

Division 1

Belconnen United	1	Weston Creek Royals	0
Capital City Suns	2	Burns Club	1
Gungahlin Juventus	0	Queanbeyan City	4
Monaro	0	Canberra Olympic	1
Canberra Deakin	4	University of Canberra	0

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
Capital City Suns	14	10	1	0	3	44	18	32
Belconnen United	14	9	2	0	3	41	14	31
Monaro	14	8	3	0	3	42	19	30
Weston Creek Royals	14	7	4	0	3	31	19	29
Canberra Olympic	14	8	1	1	4	30	15	27
Canberra Deakin	14	8	1	1	4	29	18	27
Gungahlin Juventus	14	6	1	0	7	22	27	20
University of Canberra	14	3	1	0	10	22	40	11
Burns Club	14	2	0	0	12	10	53	6
Queanbeyan City	14	1	0	0	13	20	68	3

Under 23s: Canberra Deakin 0 University of Canberra 2.

Gungahlin Juventus 7 Queanbeyan City 0, Belconnen United 2 Weston Creek Royals 0, Capital City Suns 4 Burns Club 1, Monaro 0 Canberra Olympic 3.

Points: University of Canberra 35, Belconnen United 33, Monaro 29, Weston Creek Royals 29, Canberra Olympic 26, Capital City Suns 20, Canberra Deakin 16, Gungahlin Juventus 16, Burns Club 12, Queanbeyan City 0.

Youth League (Cosmos Division): Canberra Deakin 0 University of Canberra 1, Gungahlin Juventus 6 Queanbeyan City 1, Belconnen United 4 Weston Creek Royals 3, Capital City Suns 2 Burns Club 2, Monaro 9 Canberra Olympic 4.

Points: Belconnen United 42, University of Canberra 35, Gungahlin Juventus 30, Weston Creek Royals 26, Canberra Deakin 23, Monaro 17, Capital City Suns 16, Canberra Olympic 9, Burns Club 8, Queanbeyan City 5.

Youth League (Rockets Division): Tuggeranong United 5 Radford 1.

Points: Tuggeranong United 41, Belconnen United 27, Belwest Foxes 17, Southern Spirit 15, Radford 12, Belconnen 6.

Division 2

Belwest Foxes	3	ANU	1
Tuggeranong United	1	Defence Academy	1
White Eagles	3	O'Connor Knights	4

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
O'Connor Knights	17	13	2	2	0	36	8	45
Tuggeranong United	17	11	3	0	3	50	18	39
Cooma	16	8	0	2	6	29	27	26
Belwest Foxes	17	7	2	0	8	34	3	25
ANU	17	5	4	1	7	32	30	24
White Eagles	17	6	2	0	9	33	34	22
Sabres	16	2	6	1	7	22	42	17
Defence Academy	17	1	2	0	13	13	53	7

Reserves: Belwest 0 Foxes ANU 1, Tuggeranong United 0 Defence Academy 0, White Eagles 1 O'Connor Knights 2.

Points: O'Connor Knights 44, ANU 35, Tuggeranong United 34, Belwest Foxes 30, White Eagles 28, Defence Academy 15, Sabres 11, Cooma 4.

ACT STATE LEAGUE

Division 1: Ginninderra 3 Canberra City 3.

Points: Belconnen United 33, Monaro 32, Ginninderra 29, Burns 25, ANU 22, Canberra City 20, University of Canberra 12, Valley Blues 10, Southern Spirit 4.

Division 2: Ginninderra 1 Canberra City 1, Tuggeranong United 0 Belconnen United 5.

Points: Belconnen United 34, ANU 31, Gungahlin Juventus 31, University of Canberra 30, Burns Club 28, Ginninderra 25, Belwest Foxes 22, Canberra City 12, Tuggeranong United 11, Valley Blues 5.

Division 3: Defence Academy 14 University of Canberra 1 2, Valley Blues 2 Belconnen United 1, ANU 2 Tuggeranong United 1, Canberra City 1 Fyshwick 8.

Points: Harmonie 39, Valley Blues 33, Weston Creek Royals 31, Fyshwick 30, Belconnen United 25, ANU 27, Defence Academy 18, University of Canberra 16, Defence Academy 14, Tuggeranong United 9, Canberra City 6, University of Canberra 10.

Division 4: Canberra City 1 Fyshwick 2, Valley Blues 0 Trojans 6, Defence Academy 0 University of Canberra 11 5.

Points: Trojans 40, ANU 36, Harmonie 31, University of Canberra 1 29, Weston Creek Royals 27, ANU 1 27, University of Canberra 11 23, Burns Club 19, Valley Blues 15, Fyshwick 11, Canberra City 5, Defence Academy 4.

Masters: ANU 5 Kambah Old Boys 5.

Points: Canberra City 46, Canberra Deakin 42, University of Canberra 42, White Eagles 33, Kambah Rovers 32, Kambah Old Boys 30, ANU 22, St Francis 21, Belconnen United 19, Tuggeranong United 15, Belwest Foxes 10, Valley Blues 0.

ACT PREMIER LEAGUE SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

Queanbeyan City v Canberra Deakin
Riverside

Burns Club v Gungahlin Juventus
Greenway

Weston Creek Royals v Capital City Suns
Woden Park

Canberra Olympic v Belconnen United
O'Connor

University of Canberra v Monaro
University

First grade 2pm, Under 23 noon,
Youth grade 10am

MARCONI's UNDER 11's & 12's IN

BY JOHN ECONOMOS



SPECIAL JUNIOR FEATURE

MARCONI's Under 11s and 12s squads that recently flew to Queensland to each play three exhibition matches in what was billed as the 'Brisbane

Soccer Challenge' or 'Mini State Of Origin', returned to Sydney with magnificent results as both teams remained undefeated.

All six matches were played at Spencer Park,

undwind and relax a little.

"It was for Club Marconi and me a most pleasing, and enjoyable crusade where all the Under 11s squad rose to the occasion and we were able to win all our matches," ended Ricky.

Meanwhile Marconi's Under 12s coach Jack Belardo, was also most jubilant about his Under 12s warriors, stating to ABSW: "We managed to play some really excellent Soccer over the whole week.

"It was a very good bonding experience for all the lads.

"Marconi's Under 12s showed some fine style and for me, most importantly, we showed some very good sportsmanship in every game we played.

"This trip to Queensland will stand the boys in good stead for their future in Soccer."

Tour Leader was the popular Mr Tony Bulla, Marconi's Secretary of Junior Soccer who told ABSW on Marconi's return: "We extended and achieved some very good relations for Marconi up in Brisbane. I was very proud and pleased with both of our

squads on our tour. A wonderful experience for our kids."

Relaxation Time.

But the week long tour to Queensland wasn't all just training and playing six matches.

Both squads visited Movie World on the Tuesday and on the Thursday went to see the incredible marine creatures at Sea World.

The Marconi Juniors found the 'Batman Cave' ride totally fascinating, whilst at Sea World the incredibly well trained and most intelligent Dolphins, stole the show.

Accompanying the Under

11s and 12s to the Gold Coast were no less than 70 odd parents that also immensely enjoyed the Queensland tour.

The presence of the large contingent of parents proved most invaluable especially when it came to meal times as well as the powerful vocal support they generated during all six matches in Brisbane.

Soccer Base At Coolangatta.

Both squads set up a Soccer base at Coolangatta



MARCONI's Under 11s (in Blue strip) lined up for their very first match in Brisbane at Spencer Park, Newmarket, against the Michelton Juniors seen here wearing Gold shirts. The four adults in back row are Under 12s coach Jack Belardo, match referee, Under 11s coach Ricky Chiellini and far right Team manager Neville Orlando.

Brisbane City's home ground situated in the Brisbane suburb of Newmarket.

In the process, the Under 11s coached by the affable Ricky Chiellini, scored a total of eight goals and conceded none, whilst in a most spectacular fashion, the Under 12s coached by the ever-smiling Jack Belardo, went one better having scored 14 goals, also conceding none.

The Under 11s coach Ricky Chiellini, stated to ABSW: "After an extremely tiring and hectic week, I felt the entire tour to Brisbane was a huge success.

"In less than a week that we were up at the Gold Coast, involved was training, travelling as well as playing three games.

"On top of all this, in-between, we also made two visits to Movie World and the spectacular Sea World where the kids could



MARCONI's travelling squad assembled at Queensland's Coolangatta Airport Terminal

at the luxurious 'Beach House' block of apartments that were fully equipped with kitchens included.

Each morning the coaches took their respective squads on light training sessions, irrespective of the weather.

Game 1

Marconi Under 11's: (0-4)

Marconi opened their Queensland tour with a crushing 0-4 win over Michelton, with three smart

first half goals scored by s (19th), right midfielder Ale thony Di Martino (26th).

The shell-shocked Miche goalkeeper, greatly tighter restricting Marconi to add midfielder David Bruzzese break.

Right midfielder Alex W nate not to have scored a s glancing header hit the minute.



MARCONI's dynamic Junior Soccer (Under 11s) and Jack

Marconi Under

Marconi opened their 'Q against Michelton with a s taining 0-6 victory.

Left midfielder Christian S er Giovanni Foti and right s each scored wonderful 'do reeling on the ropes .

Game

Marconi Under

On a very windy night at drew first blood against Pi 8th minute when the hungr Castaneda won possession side the box to score from c

Marconi continued to ag Hill's goals, but a most re with a defiant display by t nien Marconi four more goa

Running against a fierce sion, Marconi battled hard dividends until midway thr the very best goal of the Q and crashed into the Miche

Striker Anthony Tran, now attacking left midfielder, wide out on the left.

Just as one expected t cross into the box, from fu left flank, and on an angle, cious left footed rocketing crashed into the top right killing off any potential figh

MARCONI U11's

Alex Ang, Samuel Belardo, David Bruzzese, Mariano Castaneda, Anthony Di Martino, David Donatiello, Paul Medulla, Chris Petravic, David Puglisi, Daniel Romeo, Anthony Strati, Anthony Tran, Daniel Wagus (G/K), Alex Walker, Sargon Warda

COACH: RICK CHIELLINI

MANAGER: NEVILLE ORLANDO

'BRISBANE SOCCER CHALLENGE'

sole striker Anthony Tran
x Walker (22nd) and An-
lton with a replacement
ed up in the second half,
just a solitary goal from
e five minutes after the

alker was most unfortu-
second when his graceful
upright in only the 16th



Coaching Duo---left, Ricky Chiellini
Belardo (Under 12s).

er 12's: (0-6)

Queensland innings', also
splendid and most enter-

Sencion, central midfield-
striker Nicholas Orlando,
bles' that left Michelton

e 2

er 11's: (0-2)

Spencer Park, Marconi
ne Hill as early as in the
y left midfielder Mariano
n in a wild scramble in-
close range.

gressively bombard Pine
solite defence, coupled
he Hill's goalkeeper, de-
ls in the first session.

gale in the second ses-
to penetrate, but without
ough the last half when
Queensland tour exploded
lton net.

shifted to the role as an
gathered in possession

he industrious Tran to
ily 25 metres out on the
Anthony unleashed a vi-
drive that screamed and
t corner of the target,
t-back by Michelton.

Marconi's elastic goalkeeper Paul Argeropoulos, made two second half and most unorthodox saves from Pine Hill shots fired at him, that stunned the crowd watching as well as both teams.

Marconi Under 12's: (0-2)

With a re-shuffled line-up, plus attacking with an ambitious three strikers, Marconi's Under 12s secured their second win on the trot by dispensing Pine Hill 0-2.

A wonderful goal either side of the break scored through tenacious central striker Jonathan Odishio, said it all.

The first goal scored as early as in the 14th minute, was a gem, involving glorious skills.

A magnificent inswinging through-ball from behind by right striker Nicholas Orlando, saw Jonathan Odishio brilliantly latch onto it wide on the right.

Controlling well, from an acute angle, Odishio let fly a thunderbolt that flashed inside the upright.

In the second half an excellent cross whipped in from the left by Trent Stellard, was powerfully headed into the net by Odishio.

Odishio missed out on completing his hat-trick in the second half when his well-struck penalty for a hand-ball offence, whistled narrowly wide of the left upright.

Game 3

Marconi Under 11's: (0-2)

Marconi's final match against Brisbane City on a muddy pitch, ended 0-2 to retain their unbeaten record in Queensland.

Alex Walker opened the score in most splendid fashion in the 17th minute volleying into the target a very well directed cross.

Midfielder Anthony Di Martino made it 0-2 for Mar-



Some of the Marconi Juniors at the entrance to 'Movie World' on the Gold Coast.

conic four minutes after the break with a well judged and delicate lob over the advancing Brisbane City goalkeeper.

Marconi Under 12's: (0-6)

Despite the large defeat (0-6) suffered, ironically 'Man Of The Match' was none other than Brisbane City's outstanding goalkeeper, Robert Sevenyhazi.

Had it not been for Sevenyhazi's bravery and sheer defiance, Marconi could easily have knocked in another four goals as City's midfield collapsed under the sustained Marconi pressure as torrential rain fell almost right from kick off.

Marconi's goals came from striker Jonathan Odishio (4th), right midfielder Goran Minic (13th), left striker Trent Stallard (22nd), left midfielder Christian Sencion (40th), and a solid double from second half substitute striker Nicholas Orlando (50th and 55th).

FAREWELL PARTY BY BRISBANE CITY

On the last night of the Tournament week, the Brisbane City officials headed by the hard working Mr Chris Knight, organised a farewell function with food and drinks for both Marconi squads.



(Left) Tour Leader Tony Bulla with coach Jack Belardo far right) flanking the Marconi Under 12s squad-in no order: Giovanni Foti, Nicholas Orlando, Vincent Vurchio, George Grasso, Andy Darko, Sonny Karras, Paul Argeropoulos (Goalkeeper), Trent Stallard, Marc Cane, Christian Sencion, Nathan Smith, Jonathan Odishio, Goran Minic, Paul Puglisi.

As a special gesture, Marconi's tour leader Mr Tony Bulla, had organised two special gifts to be presented to the Best And Fairest Player of each Brisbane City teams, which were judged by ABSW.

Presented with their respective awards were Brisbane City's Under 11s classy sweeper Daniel Zullo, whilst City's Under 12s and gallant goalkeeper Robert Sevenyhazi with 'both gloves' grabbed his Marconi present.

Marconi's Nostalgic B-B-Q and Video Presentation.

Last Sunday morning, before the NSW Super League Grand Final was played between Blacktown City and the Parramatta Eagles at the Marconi Stadium, Marconi's Under 11s and 12s squads, plus all the parents that had travelled with the teams up to the Gold Coast for the 'Brisbane Challenge', organised a wonderful B-B-Q in the outer grounds at Club Marconi to reminisce over their recent Queensland crusade.

After the B-B-Q., the Junior contingent with all parents in tow, moved into the Club's Main Auditorium to enjoy a magnificent long video montage that captured all of the highlights of Marconi trip up to Queensland.

The wonderful and most valuable video presentation, saturated with nostalgic moments, was ever so diligently filmed and edited by one of the parents, Mr Mario Medulla that had accompanied both Marconi squads to Queensland.

MARCONI U12's

Nicholas Orlando, Giovanni Foti, Vincent Vurchio, George Grasso, Andy Darko, Sonny Karras, Trent Stallard, Marc Gane, Christian Sencion, Jonathan Odishio, Paul Argeropoulos (G/K), Goran Minic, Nathan Smith, Paul Puglisi

COACH: JACK BELARDO

MANAGER: ANGELO ROMEO

THE WEEK IN THE GLOBAL GAME SPONSORED BY THE FOUR DIEGOS RADIO SHOW AND ADELAIDE'S COAST FM SOCCER

Blanco(r) of Mexico has been on fire during the Confederations Cup. For more news on the tournament, turn to pages 20 and 21.



Alexli and Warley of Brazil celebrate their crushing of Germany in the opening match of the Confederations Cup. For more South American news, turn to page 22.



Satigoi was back in action, as Fiorentina prepare for the upcoming season, soon here getting past a Panathinaikos defender. For more Italian news, turn to page 23.



Arsenal's Kanu(l) fights with Saint-Etienne's Saar during an exhibition match. UK news starts on page 27.



Brain Laudrup made a brilliant start to his career at Ajax as the Dutch giants took on Aston Villa in New York. For more European news, turn to page 24.



Compiled by

AFRICA/ASIA

Soccer Weekly

ON A NO GO
FOR OLYMPICS?

Japan's Shinji Ono was released from hospital following surgery to his injured left leg but said he was not sure of recovering in time for the end of his country's Olympic qualification campaign.

"I want to focus on healing up the leg 100 percent but not on playing in the final round," the 19-year-old Urawa Red Diamonds midfielder said. "The pain hasn't come down to zero. But I can walk just like that."

He appeared at a news conference without the aid of crutches after he checked out of a hotel in a city near the club's hometown of Urawa, north of Tokyo.

The club's doctor said Ono was scheduled to resume running and other light training in early September.

But it was still uncertain if he could compete in Asia's Group Three final qualifying round games against Kazakhstan and Thailand in October and November.

Ono was tackled from behind during a match against the Philippines in the Asian group-six preliminary qualifying round on July 4. He tore a ligament in his left knee.

He scored seven goals to help Japan finish at the top of the table with eight straight wins in group six.

Ono also led the team to finish runners-up to Spain in the World Youth Championships in April in Nigeria.

Ono is regarded as one of Japanese soccer's brightest prospects, and is being tipped to follow in the footsteps of compatriot and Serie A star Hidetoshi Nakata.



NATIONS CUP DRAW

The draw for the African Nations Cup finals will be made in Lagos on August 28, the African Football Confederation said.

Co-hosts Nigeria and Ghana, title holders Egypt and 1996 champions South Africa are the likely top seeds for the biennial 16-team event that will be staged in two countries for the first time.

Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Morocco, Nigeria, Togo, Tunisia and Zambia have also qualified and Senegal or Zimbabwe will complete the line-up.



Newly promoted Rayo Vallecano, Madrid's third top-division club after the better-known Real and Atletico, confirmed that they had signed Angolan international striker Quinzinho.

Quinzinho — whose full name is Joaquim Da Silva — is the Spanish club's first major acquisition since they won the promotion play-offs last month.

He joins on a one-year loan from Portuguese club Sporting Lisbon.

Rayo are also bidding to sign American international goalkeeper Kasey Keller, currently with England's Leicester City.

Blatter attempts to
defuse Asian bomb

FIFA president Sepp Blatter is attempting to defuse the row over the allocation of places which has led to Asian countries threatening a boycott of the 2002 World Cup.

FIFA said that Blatter had written to the president of the Asian Football Confederation but a spokesman declined to disclose the contents of the letter.

A statement said Blatter had been "astounded and disappointed" at the confederation's walk-out from a FIFA congress in Los Angeles this month where Asian nations demanded greater representation at the finals.

"The FIFA President has sent a personal letter to the AFC President, Sultan (Ahmed) Shah, also on the subject of Asian qualifying places for the 2002 FIFA World Cup," the statement said.

In an attempted compromise Europe had agreed to a play-off with Asia for the final qualifying place in 2002, giving the Asians a minimum four places, the same as in 1998, and a maximum of five.

But the AFC have demanded five to start with and have said they will boycott the 2002 qualifying tournament and go into the World Cup with only two countries, joint hosts Japan and South Korea.

The Asian Football Confederation said they would meet FIFA president Sepp Blatter to push for another seat at the 2002 World Cup.

Peter Velappan, Malaysian secretary-general of the AFC, said the 45-member nations would decide in October whether to go ahead with their threat to boycott the qualifying competition for the finals if their demand was not met.

FIFA has given Asia a minimum of four places in 2002, the same as last year, and a maximum of five. Europe this month offered a compromise, agreeing to a play-off with Asia for the final qualifying place in 2002.

But Velappan said the AFC demanded a minimum of five, without having to rely on a play-off.

"The five seats are our right. We are not begging for seats," he said.

"The boycott is not final until the AFC extraordinary congress takes place on October 10," Velappan told a



Peter Velappan

news conference in the Malaysian capital.

Velappan said he would meet Blatter in Mexico to "explore every option possible to get our rights back".

Blatter has written to AFC president Sultan Ahmad Shah in an attempt to defuse the row over the allocation of places. Velappan declined to disclose its contents.

Asia's entire delegation walked out of the FIFA congress in Los Angeles this month over the allocations.

Asian countries said they would boycott the 2002 qualifying tournament and go into the Cup with only two countries — joint hosts Japan and South Korea — unless they were given five places.

AUGUSTINE SUFFERS ANOTHER
BAFANA BAFANA BLOW

Brendan Augustine must have given up hope of ever playing for Bafana Bafana again after being sent home from the World Cup Finals in France last year.

His hopes were raised when he was named in the 19-man squad to face Namibia in the Cosafa Castle Cup then dashed again when an injury ruled him out.

Augustine finds himself struggling against a recurring groin injury which threatened his career at the World Cup. The hard-running midfielder has been ruled out of the squad.

Augustine, who has recently signed for Ajax Cape Town, was put through a fitness test and, after he failed the test, a replacement had to be found. His place will be taken by Orlando Pirates' midfield maestro Steve Lekoelea.

Lekoelea has been in outstanding form and it was only a matter of time before he was called up for national duty. His dazzling runs and pin-point crosses helped Pirates to the Vodacom Challenge and Iwisa Spectacular Challenge victories in the past weeks.

Meanwhile, Bafana Bafana coach Trott Moloto has named Pirates midfielder Thabo Mngomeni as the captain for the Namibia clash.

With Leeds United and Bafana skipper Lucas Radebe not available for this encounter, and his assistant John Moeti also out, Mngomeni was the obvious choice.

Mngomeni, who has 12 caps for the national team, has only one goal to his credit, a goal he scored when

Bafana Bafana beat Mauritius 2-0 in the African Cup of Nations qualifier game in Durban in June.

Teams:

SA: B Baloyi; J Tlale; T Mnguni; M Booth; C Mahlangu; F McCarthy; P Khomane; J Masilela; T Mngomeni; P Mbele; J Hartley; G Sapula; J McCarthy; A Phiri; S Lekoelea; P Ndlanga; D Mudau; A Sebola; S Bartlett.

Namibia: D Bruwer; F Kananelo; R Doeseb; S Goagoseb; S Mbaisa; S Ndjambari; O Tjikurunda; B Tjihero; C Benjamin; S Goraseb; J Hindjou; P Kontwane; R Mannetti; R Nauseb; N Nicodemus; S Uutoni; F Diegaardt; Q Jacobs; P Shibanga.

When the news first broke that Guiseppi Dossena, coach of the national senior sides, Black Stars and Black Meteors, had threatened not to use players of Kumasi Asante Kotoko, the impression initially was that it was to drive a point home.

Days later, the Accra representative of the Fabulous boys, Kwame Amoa Bosompem, fired back saying Kotoko was not surprised at the intended sacking of Godwin Ablordey from the camp of Black Meteors because the team had been aware of an official conspiracy to leave Kotoko players out of the national teams.

Proving the existence of the sad conspiracy would be

difficult indeed as players of Asante Kotoko have always been an integral part of the various national teams. The problem must relate to the paucity of accomplished talents on the local scene which has affected every team locally.

In the days when the local league was very competitive and full of thrills, local players formed the national team but as talents increasingly left for more lush turfs, constituting the national teams became an exercise in which locating players resident in Ghana has become difficult.

When 'Bayie' Opoku Afriyie, Hesse Odamtten, Abdul Razak and others joined the Stars, they were locally based but currently, the bulk of stars ply their trade with sides in Greece, Germany, Holland and France.

In effect, most teams on the local scene were affected in filling the Black Stars and a number of local players ended up as mere training horses for many trial matches only to be dropped at the time of major tournaments.

A strange phenomenon then evolved in which certain players were given automatic qualification into the senior national team even when the 'imported' players proved themselves to be tired war horses, they got fielded in matches.

For players intending to join the Stars therefore, the route was via a professional career outside.

There may be bigger problems lurking in the back-

Ghana
1958

ground in the war of words between the two sides, but for the good of Ghana football, no team or coach should feel greater than the rest.

Dossena may not have been used to an environment in which players can just pop out of camp for any excuse they think reasonable. If that was what drove the Stars' coach to issue his threat, then he must be on the right track.

Certainly, trying to secure a formidable national soccer side is not going to be easy and whoever has the task of grooming the team has a great job indeed.

The great Kotoko sides of the 70s and 80s would not have had a problem losing a single player to the nation momentarily but those were the days of old so one should understand the red-shirted boys.

Ghana cannot do away with Kotoko players. At the same time, those players need the exposure that comes with playing for the country. For many graduates of the Black Starlets, going national has been worthwhile so why should a new crop be denied inputs from Fabu?

Asante Kotoko may be unhappy but let them not cut their thighs too deep as that may affect them in future.

Baba Amando and the other players shall need exposure for as long as they ply the football trade and thus peace must come for the nation's soccer to continue its recent awakening process.

Let the gurus of Ghana sports descend into the pit to patch up the differences between Dossena and Kotoko.

Compiled by

CONFEDERATIONS CUP

Soccer Weekly

BLANCO BLASTS FOUR PAST SAUDI'S IN CUP OPENER

MEXICO 5
SAUDI ARABIA 1

Cuauhtemoc Blanco scored four goals as host nation Mexico whipped Saudi Arabia 5-1 to take a firm grip of group A in the Confederations Cup.

It only took Blanco, hugely impressive in the recent Copa America, 10 minutes to make the breakthrough, beating Saudi keeper Mohammad Al Deayea with ease, with not a defender in sight.

Just eight minutes later, Jose Manuel Abundis took a corner, and an unmarked Blanco rose to bury the header in the Saudi net.

The host nation killed the match as a competitive event after only 21 minutes, with Abundis again taking advantage of a reticent Saudi defense, running forward before picking his spot and scoring with a long-range effort.

After 62 minutes, Hamzah Falata finally gave the Saudis reason to be cheerful, winning a penalty which

was duly converted by Nawaf Al Temyat.

But it did not take long for the Mexicans to re-establish that three-goal margin and a Rafael Garcia freekick after 67 minutes again found the head of Blanco, who once more made no mistake.

That brought cries of "cinco" (five) from the partisan 80,000 Mexican crowd, and 10 minutes later, their wish would be granted.

Once again it was courtesy of Blanco's head, although on this occasion it was substitute Jesus Arellano who was the provider with a cross from the right by-line.

There were no more goals with Mexico easing up in the later stages, but the team was greeted with a standing ovation — and of course the famous Mexican wave — at the end of proceedings.

It was a hugely impressive performance from Mexico, which finished third in the recent Copa America, and puts it on top of what is the easier of the two groups.

Bolivia and Egypt shared a 2-2 draw in group A's opening fixture in the Confederations Cup, which took place in the Aztec Stadium.

It was Egypt who took the lead after only seven minutes. Abdelsatar Sabry worked a fine one-two before rounding goalkeeper Jose Carlo Fernandez and giving the Africans an early lead.

But after 20 minutes the Bolivians squared the match when Limberg Gutierrez equalised with a brilliantly-worked freekick, fooling Essam El-Hadary in the Egyptian goal.

The South Americans, eliminated in the group stages of the Copa America earlier this month, then took control, eventually seizing the lead five minutes before the interval.

It was Reny Ribera who made the breakthrough with a shot from the right edge of the penalty area.

But Egypt leveled the score after 62 minutes, with what proved to be the last goal of the match, when Yasser Radwan struck a left-footed shot from 30 metres.

Bolivia boss Hector Veira introduced Marco Etcheverry for Gutierrez with 20 minutes remaining, but the talented midfielder was unable to conjure up a winner for the Latin Americans.



Blanco after scoring his first against Saudi Arabia.

BORING BOLIVIA DRAW WITH SAUDI'S

BOLIVIA 0
SAUDI ARABIA 0

Bolivia and Saudi Arabia played to a scoreless draw at Azteca Stadium that diminished their chances of advancing to the Confederations Cup semifinals.

Mexico now leads Group A with four points.

Bolivia controlled the game in the early minutes, but Saudi Arabia responded with attacks led by Hussein Sulamini, Ibrahim Al Harbi and Nawaf Al Temyat.

Bolivia, led by veteran Marco Etcheverry, could not organize a coordinated attack in the first half, and the U.S. Major League Soccer star was replaced in the second half by Gonzalo Galindo.



Galindo of Bolivia (r) and Al Subaie Saudi Arabia (l) fight for the ball.

Saudi Arabia had more chances to score, but missed with erratic shots on at least two occasions, and good work by goalkeeper Carlos Fernandez.

"The final score is bad for the teams," Bolivian coach Hector Vieira said. "It was an open game that no one could control. Now we know we have to face Mexico, the best team in the group."

Saudi Arabia: 1-Mohammed Al Deayea, 2-Mohammed Al Jahani (17-Abdullah Al Shahrani 66th min), 3-Mohammed Al Khilaiwi, 5-Saleh Al Dawod, 6-Ibrahim Al Harbi, 7-Ibrahim Al Shahrani, 13-Hussein Sulamini, 15-Fahad Al Subaie, 18-Nawaf Al Temyat, 19-Hamzah Falatah (9-Marzouk Al Otaibi 45th min), 20-Mohsin Harthi.

Bolivia: 1-Jose Carlo Fernandez, 3-Ronaldo Arana, 4-Lorgio Alvarez, 5-Oscar Sanchez, 8-Ruben Tufino, 9-Jaime Moreno (13-Joaquin Botero 73rd min), 10-Marco Etcheverry (11-Gonzalo Galindo 53rd min), 14-Erwin Sanchez (7-Limberg Gutierrez 45th min), 15-Jose Menacho, 16-Vladimir Soria, 20-Reny Ribera.



Action between Bolivia and Saudi Arabia.

MEXICAN FANS TURN ON TEAM

MEXICO 2
EGYPT 2

Egypt clawed back from a two-goal deficit to gain a 2-2 draw against host Mexico despite being a man down much of the second half in their second Confederations Cup tournament match in Mexico.

The Egyptians gained the respect of the 65,000 crowd in Mexico City's Azteca Stadium and were cheered as they walked off the pitch at the end of the scrappy match.

Long before the final whistle blew, the Mexican fans began booing the local side, impatient with their team's complacency after taking a 2-0 half-time lead.

"It's logical for them to react that way," Mexican coach Manuel Lapuente said of the crowd's reaction. "It's up to us to try harder and do something to please them."

Mexico leads the group with four points after two games but all four sides have a shot at the semi-final with one match each remaining.

Mexico opened the scoring in the 15th minute when Pavel Pardo, fed into the box by a flicked on ball from Cuauhtemoc Blanco, slammed a right-footed shot that glanced off the crossbar and into the back of the net defended by Essam El Hadary.

In the 26th minute Jose Manuel Abundis scored his second goal of the tournament with a glancing header off a corner kick from German Villa.

Mexico appeared coasting to semifinals berth in the FIFA tournament when Egypt's Yasser Radwan was

sent off at the 64th minute after receiving his second yellow card from South Korean referee Young Joo Kim.

But the Egyptians refused to fold. Hassan Ahmed slotted home a close-range shot after Mexican keeper Jorge Campos failed to clear a free kick that rebounded off the crossbar.

With the impatient Mexican crowd booing the home team, Egypt got the equalizer at the 85th minute when Samir Ibrahim rifled in a free kick inside the near post from 30 meters past a poorly positioned three-man wall.

"In the second half there were some changes in tactics," Egyptian coach Mahmoud Al-Gohary told reporters.

"The team's spirits were greatly lifted."

In the earlier match, neither Bolivia nor Saudia Arabia seemed capable of mounting a serious threat to their opponent's goal.



Mexico celebrates after scoring the first goal against Egypt.

Compiled by

CONFEDERATIONS CUP

Soccer Weekly

BEWARE OF THE WOUNDED GERMANS

GERMANY 2
NEW ZEALAND 0

Germany won its first Confederations Cup match with a methodical 2-0 victory over New Zealand.

After being humiliated 4-0 by reigning Confederations champion Brazil in the opening game, and amid intense pressure from its domestic media, Germany bounced back with first-half goals from Michael Preetz and veteran captain Lothar Matthaus.



Germany's goalscorers, Preetz (l) and Matthaus celebrate the win over NZ.

With the three points from the Group B win, Germany still holds a chance of qualifying for the semi-finals, while winless New Zealand is all but eliminated with one match remaining.

Despite slipping in world standings since winning the European championship in 1996, Germany rarely looked threatened by New Zealand which has returned to the international stage since making a World Cup debut in 1982.

Described in some German media circles in the wake of the defeat to Brazil as the worst national coach ever, Erich Ribbeck made only two changes in the cooler evening conditions of Guadalajara compared to the heat caldron faced against the South American champions.

Once again, the 38-year-old Matthaus was Germany's lynchpin and he finished off a clinically crafted move in the 33rd minute to notch his 23rd international goal.

Earlier, in the sixth minute, German striker Michael Preetz tapped in for only his third international goal after a delicate curling freekick by Mehmet Scholl had struck the post.



New Zealand's Jackson tackles German Captain Matthaus during their clash in the Confederations Cup.

BRAZIL LUCKY AGAINST THE US

BRAZIL 1
UNITED STATES 0

Before a venomous anti-American crowd, a goal by Ronaldinho lifted Brazil over a surprisingly strong American team 1-0 in the FIFA Confederations Cup.

The Americans held back the offense of the more seasoned Brazilians who are now certain to qualify for semi-finals.

"I'm happy with the soccer we played, but not with the result," U.S. coach Bruce Arena said.

"Brazil showed talent and a superior capacity. We weren't able to take advantage of our opportunities."

The United States, dominated possession for much of the game and took as many shots on goal — nine — as Brazil.

But the Brazilians exploited their opportunities better, and Ronaldinho headed a pass from Serginho past goalkeeper Kasey Keller in the 12th minute.

The United States, which would advance with a tie or a win against Germany, missed a chance to tie in the 72nd minute when Joe-Max Moore's penalty kick went straight into the hands of Brazil goalkeeper Dida.

Cobi Jones had been kicked from behind by Odvan, causing the penalty. Cobi Jones from behind.

"The United States was able to close in on the gaps," Brazil coach Wanderley Luxemburgo said.

"We had a difficult game, but luckily we came out with the three points."

The rowdy crowd was overwhelmingly with the Brazilians, whistling catcalls during "The Star-Spangled Banner" and chanting "Brazil! Brazil!"

The Guadalajara area is home to many U.S. immigrants, and people resent the treatment. Hispanics receive up north.

Brazil was based in Guadalajara during the 1970 and 1986 World Cups.



Action between Brazil and the US. The Americans were unlucky to lose.

"America has us very oppressed," said Luis Damazo, a 42-year-old merchant. "This is the only place where we can let out our feelings."

Brazil will finish top of the group with German and The Us fighting it out for the last position in the Semi's of the Cup.

AND THEN THERE WERE FOUR

MEXICO 1
BOLIVIA 0

Mexico squeaked by Bolivia and Saudi Arabia crushed Egypt, sending the victorious sides into the semi-finals of soccer's Confederations Cup.

Mexico wins Group A in the eight-nation FIFA tournament, gaining the right to remain in Mexico City and face the winner of the winner between Germany and the United States.

"They're both very strong," Mexico coach Manuel Lapuente said when asked which team he preferred to play. "I don't like to choose rivals."

The Saudi's have the unenviable task of traveling to Guadalajara for the other semi-final to face Brazil.

The remaining squads — New Zealand, Egypt and Bolivia — have been eliminated.

A second-half goal from beleaguered midfielder Francisco Palencia was all Mexico could muster in their 1-0 win over Bolivia in front of a demanding crowd of 50,000 in Mexico City's Azteca stadium.

In the earlier match Saudi Arabia, fueled by a four-goal outburst from striker

Marzouk Al Otaibi, thrashed Egypt 5-1 in a match that saw three Egyptians sent off by Paraguayan referee Ubaldo Aquino.

After being booed off the pitch following a 2-2 draw with Egypt, the Mexicans appeared to suffer from jitters in a first half marred by misdirected passes and few clear scoring chances.

Palencia, the object of much of the crowd's scorn, gained some vindication by heading into an open net after Bolivian goalkeeper Jose Carlo Fernandez misplayed a corner kick at the 52nd minute.

"There was a bit of pressure," Palencia said after the game. "But we managed it well and were able to gather strength as the match progressed."

Egypt, meanwhile, had its dreams of qualifying for the semifinal crushed by a surprising Saudi side, which was humbled in a 5-1 loss to Mexico.

Al Otaibi began the Saudi onslaught at the eight minute, lunging to boot home a rebound of his own shot off the post.

But a nine-minute first-half nightmare for the Egyptians quickly put the game out of hand.

Aquino sent off Egypt's Abdelsatar Sabry at the 28th minute for leveling a Saudi defender with an elbow.

Al Otaibi struck again at the 34th minute with a first-timed left-footed shot off a low cross from Nawaf Al Temyat.

Then at the 37th minute Egypt's Hazem

Emam was ejected after collecting his second yellow card from Aquino.

After the break, the Saudis poured it on. Ibrahim Al Shahrani tapped in at the 64th minute after Egyptian keeper Essam El Hadary failed to clear a Fahad Al Subaie shot.

Al Otaibi collected his third goal at the 78th minute, shedding two defenders and easily beating El Hadary.

He struck again at the 85th minute with a low, left-footed shot.

Samir Ibrahim scored a consolation goal for Egypt at the 70th minute from the penalty spot. But he was sent off 10 minutes later for a rough tackle on Al Shahrani.

The United States only needed a tie. Instead, they delivered a rout.

The 2-0 victory was the Americans' second this year against Germany, the European champions. And they did it without some of their top players.

Ben Olsen scored off a pass from Marcelo Balboa in the 23rd minute and Joe-Max Moore scored on a free kick in the 49th.

"We're very happy with the result," coach Bruce Arena said. "We prepared well, and we had a great game. I'm proud and satisfied with my players."

The win advanced the Americans to the semi-finals of the FIFA

Confederations Cup against Mexico. The other semifinal is between Saudi Arabia and Brazil.

Arena held back some of his top players — including goalkeeper Kasey Keller, defender John Harkes and midfielder Cobi Jones — so they could be rested for the game.

"I think we'll have trouble with Mexico, because it's one of the favorites," Arena said.

"But we're going to prepare ourselves well."

For the Germans, three-time World Cup champions, it was yet another loss in a shockingly bad year. Last summer, they

hammered the Americans 2-0 in their World Cup opener, but in February they lost 3-0 to the United States in an exhibition game.

Back home, there were calls for massive changes.

"I'm hurt that we weren't able to prepare ourselves better," said German coach Erich Ribbeck, who left start forward Oliver Bierhoff back home.

"The so-called little teams can beat us if they're better prepared."

Added forward Michael Preetz: "We were missing several important players, and their absence showed on the field."



MEDIA PRESS PTY LTD

5-13 GARNERS AVENUE, NSW 2204 (02) 9562 0500 — Fax (02) 9550 9332

* NEWSPAPER — MAGAZINES BOOKLETS — INSERTS —
* TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES
* WEBB OFFSET PRINTERS
* GENERAL COMMERCIAL and COLOUR PRINTERS
* TYPESETTING — TRANSLATIONS AVAILABLE
* SADDLE STITCHING
* PERFECT BINDING
* DISTRIBUTION — CIRCULATION AVAILABLE

(02) 9562 0500



Compiled by

STH AMERICA

Soccer Weekly

BIELSA TO STAY IN CHARGE OF ARGENTINA

Argentinian Football Association chief Julio Grondona gave a vote of confidence to beleaguered national team coach Marcelo Bielsa.

Bielsa, who replaced Daniel Passarella in the wake of last year's World Cup, was fiercely criticized after the team's poor showing in the recent Copa America.

hit the target with his first two attempts.

The atmosphere was further soured when Bielsa and Independiente striker Jose Luis Calderon exchanged insults in front of journalists in the departure lounge at Asuncion airport after their elimination.

Only intervention from senior players Diego Simeone and Roberto Ayala prevented a brawl breaking out.

But Grondona said he had a lot of confidence in Bielsa, telling El Grafico newspaper:

"He is capable, honest, loyal and a very hard-working coach."

Asked if Bielsa was secure in his job, Grondona said: "He is totally secure."

But Grondona did have some criticisms of Bielsa, notably his actions before the Copa, when he seemed undecided whether to call up several European-based players such as Gabriel Batistuta, Juan Sebastian Veron, Fernando Redondo, Matias Almeyda and Claudio Lopez.

In the end Bielsa omitted those players but only after weeks of apparent dithering.

Grondona said: "Bielsa should have issued a list to the newspapers saying, for example, Batistuta is not coming for this or that reason."

The AFA chief added that those players would now be reintegrated into the squad, saying: "How can we not pick them? Who is Bielsa, the Pope?"

Grondona agreed that Argentina were still coming to terms with the retirement of Diego Maradona.

He said: "If we are not careful, we will follow the example of Brazil, who went 24 years without winning a title after Pele retired."

"What we are missing is inspiration. We haven't lost the technique."



Jose Chilavert wants to play in 2002.

CHILAVERT WANTS TO PLAY IN 2002

country's vice-President Luis Maria Argana this year.

The former general was also suspected of plotting a coup in 1996 and is also believed to have been involved in the massacre of seven demonstrators protesting against the government of his ally and then Paraguayan president Raul Cubas, who has since fled to Brazil.

Chilavert said: "I have no doubt that he (Oviedo) was responsible for the massacre of young people who gave their lives for democracy and that a section of the press is defending him."

Four Guatemalan players plus their coach were sent off in a 2-1 defeat by Canada as the Pan American Games' low-key soccer tournament suddenly erupted.

The United States referee and his assistants left the field at the end with police protecting them from the furious protests of Guatemalan players, who surrounded the officials to argue when the final whistle went.

Canada were left to contemplate how they only managed to win 2-1 against opponents who had been reduced to eight men after just 33 minutes. Denis Chen, Merlos Sosa and Carlos Ruiz were all sent off in the first half for either violent fouls, arguing with the referee or both. Alegria Briones were dismissed in second half injury time.

Canada's Steve Kindel said: "We should have buried them and put four, five, six goals away. For them to get even a shot on goal is unheard of, never mind a goal."

Canada coach Bruce Twamley was shown the red card in the second half for leaving his designated area. The Pan American soccer features under-23 teams but is missing most South American nations, whose demands for payment to take part were not met by organizers.



Argentina coach, Marcelo Bielsa is under fire by the Argentinian media after the Copa America.

Argentina lost in the quarterfinals to eventual winner Brazil, but the antics of the national team frequently bordered on the farcical.

Striker Martin Palermo missed three penalties in the 3-0 defeat by Colombia, with not one of his teammates making any effort to take the third penalty even though the Boca Juniors striker had not even

ROMARIO MAGIC LEADS FLAMENGO IN MERCOSUR

Romario scored twice for Brazil's Flamengo, steering them to a 2-1 victory over Paraguay's Olimpia in the opening phase of the Copa Mercosur.

In the day's other game, River Plate notched an injury-time goal to draw 3-3 with Copa Libertadores champion Palmeiras. Palmeiras won the inaugural Copa Mercosur over Cruzeiro in December 1998.

The strikes, one of which was a rare header by the "little one," were enough to give the win to a Rio side at a sparsely filled Maracana stadium. But the veteran goalscorer wasn't completely satisfied.

"We weren't the great team we were at the end of the Rio state championship" won by Flamengo in June, said Romario.

"I hope the technical side and the determination gets better."

After 12 minutes, the striker showed he hasn't lost his touch when he neatly flicked a ball over outcoming goalie Tvarelli and into the net. Then, a minute before halftime, he headed in a cross.

Avalos scored with a penalty for Olimpia 10 minutes after the break when a teammate was pulled down in a cross.



Leonel Cancado of River Plate (l) takes on Junior of Palmeiras.

the box. But, in a low-key match, the Paraguayan team never sustained enough pressure to really worry the home side.

In a nice touch at half-time, a handful of banner-waving Olimpia supporters in the upper tier of the stadium swapped shirts with Flamengo fans underneath.

Libertadores Cup champion Palmeiras of Brazil was denied a Mercosur Cup victory over Argentine rivals River Plate in almost the last kick of the match.

Cardetti levelled the Group A clash four minutes into injury time to present River Plate with a 3-3 draw.

Palmeiras scored through Ze Maria and Evair in the seventh and 36th minutes while Cardetti replied in the ninth.

Jackson added a third for Palmeiras midway through the second half minutes after teammate Evair was sent off.



Palmeiras players celebrate scoring against River Plate in their Mercosur match.

Palmeiras were reduced to nine men when Roque Junior received a red card in the 86th minute.

Rivarola of Palmeiras was guilty of an own goal three minutes from time before Cardetti staged the Argentine escape act.

SMYRNIS & CO

Solicitors and Public Notary



● Are you in trouble with the Federation and have to appear before one of their tribunals?

● Do you have a dispute with your current Club/Team?

● Do you need assistance in relation to your contract negotiations with a soccer club?

If you require assistance in relation to any of the above then please call Mr Andrew Smyrnis who has over 15 years experience in appearing before tribunals and assisting players, coaches and clubs in relation to their contract matters.

● Please feel free to call us for an obligation free quote on these and all your legal needs.

Smyrnis & Co - Solicitors

● 91 Glebe Point Road, GLEBE
Tel: (02) 9552 6288
Fax: (02) 9660 7349

● 1st Floor, 2-6 Regent St, KOGARAH
Tel: (02) 9522 6288
Fax: (02) 9660 7349

Compiled by

ITALY

Soccer Weekly

PERUGIA KICKED
OUT FROM HOME

Italy's Perugia were fined 75,000 Swiss Francs (\$50,000) and banned from their ground for two matches for crowd trouble which forced the abandonment of an Intertoto Cup tie with Trabzonspor.

European soccer's governing body UEFA awarded the match to Trabzonspor 3-0 by default. The Turkish side had won the stormy third round tie 3-1 for a 4-3 aggregate victory.

Perugia, who won the first leg 2-1, were on the verge of a place in the semifinals until Trabzonspor scored an 88th minute goal to lead 2-1 on the night and force extra time.

"When Trabzonspor (then) made it 3-1, the local supporters threw plastic bottles, coins and lighters towards the second assistant referee. The game was stopped for a minute," UEFA said in a statement.

"Shortly afterwards the second assistant referee was struck on the neck by a bottle and, once again, the match was interrupted -- this time for seven minutes during which 20-30 bottles were thrown onto the pitch.

"When the game was resumed, a goal by Perugia was disallowed for offside. The local supporters responded by

throwing various bottles, coins and lighters onto the field of play," UEFA said.

"Then the referee, Georg Dardenne from Germany, decided to call off the match."

UEFA said Perugia could appeal against the fine and ban, which will force them to play their next two home matches in any UEFA competition at least 300 kms from the city.

A Perugia spokesman, speaking before UEFA's announcement, described the crowd trouble as "nothing out of the ordinary."

"Three or four little plastic water bottles were thrown and one of them seemed to hit a linesman on the shoulder, but it was nothing that could have caused any real pain," club secretary Ilvano Ercoli said. "These kinds of things happen every Sunday in Italian football."

This match was the second involving Perugia to have ended in violence within three days.

Only days before, their friendly against the Libyan national team was abandoned after 20 minutes due to a mass brawl which left three players needing hospital treatment.



Action from the Intertoto Cup between Juventus and Rostov

JUVE
ARE
BACK

Midfielder Gheorghe Pantazi from Romanian club Ceahlau Piatra Neamt has decided to remain in Italy after the UEFA Intertoto Cup match against Juventus.

Mario Contardo, the Romanian club's president, said: "He chose to remain in Italy together with his wife though he had no official documents."

The Romanians drew the game 0-0 but went out on the away goals rule.

Contardo said three Ceahlau supporters had also refused to return home after the match.



Gabriel Batistuta and Predrag Mijatovic were brilliant for Fiorentina in the final.

Gabriel Batistuta scored a pair of goals as Fiorentina defeated Aston Villa 4-0 in the finals of the Gotham Cup exhibition tournament.

Batistuta, the tournament's Most Outstanding Player, was supported by newcomer Predrag Mijatovic.

"I was not surprised with how easily we won," Fiorentina coach Giovanni Trapattoni said through an interpreter.

"We have some of the best players in the world. I am very satisfied with the way we played."

Rui Costa set up the first goal in the 19th minute when he threaded a diagonal pass to Mijatovic racing into the box from the left.

The Serbian striker, who was acquired recently from Real Madrid, controlled the ball and placed a low shot just inside the far post.

Fiorentina made it 2-0 in the 36th minute on a penalty kick by Batistuta after Aston Villa defender Gareth Souhgate pulled him down in the box following a pass from Mijatovic.

"Mijatovic and Batistuta were the difference," said Aston Villa coach John Gregory. "They taught us a les-

BATIGOL
TEACHES
ASTON
VILLA A
LESSON

son in finishing. Their forwards are the best in Europe."

Batistuta tallied his second goal in the 48th minute when he ran onto a cross from Mijatovic on the right side and tucked a low shot inside the far post from 15 yards.

Costa then closed the scoring in the 87th minute running onto a long pass from Abel Balbo and slipping the ball into the net from close range with the outside of his right foot.

In the consolation match, Greek champions Panathinaikos edged out Ajax, 3-2.

Parma's \$32-million striker Marcio Amoroso, Serie A's top scorer last season, has undergone a knee operation in the United States and will miss the start of the new season.

Surgeons in Birmingham, tidied up some torn pieces of meniscus in his right knee using arthroscopic surgery and the former Udinese striker will need about two months to fully recover.

His place up front in Parma's likely European Champions League qualifier against Glasgow Rangers will now go to either Mario Stanic, who helped Croatia finish third at the World Cup, or new signing Marco Di Vaio.

The two men have scored 10 goals apiece in just two friendlies against amateur opposition with the team rattling up a 54-0 aggregate.

Cragnotti confirms
NO MORE Anelka

Lazio boss Sergio Cragnotti confirmed that nearly two months of on-off talks to buy French striker Nicolas Anelka from Arsenal were over.

Lazio's agent Vincenzo Morabito claimed night that the deal was definitively off because no agreement could be found over the money for either the transfer, the player's terms or the agents' fees.

That breakdown was confirmed by Cragnotti, who publicly broke off talks last week, as he made his way into a business meeting.

"The soap opera is over," said the Lazio owner, who had wanted to sign Anelka as a replacement for Christian Vieri, sold to Inter Milan last month for nearly \$50 million.

AC Milan will begin the defense of its Serie A title away to Lecce on Aug. 29, the draw for the new season showed.

The five-time European champion, which clinched its 16th Serie A crown in May, will then face Perugia on the second weekend of the season.

Milan's first big test of its championship credentials

comes on Oct. 3, when it faces Lazio, which it beat to the title by a single point on the last day of the 1998/99 season.

Lazio starts its campaign at home against unfancied Cagliari.

Juventus, champions in 1998, faces newly-promoted Reggina at home on the opening day, the first ever match in Serie A for the southern Italian club.

Inter Milan is at home to Verona; UEFA Cup holder Parma is away at Perugia; Fiorentina plays Bari at home and AS Roma starts away against Piacenza.

The pace picks up in the second week of the season when Roma is at home to Inter.

Milan and Inter clash in the first Milan derby of the season on Oct. 24, while Lazio first

meets Roma at the Olympic stadium on November 21. If, like last year, the title race goes right to the wire, the penultimate day of the season, May 7, 2000 -- when Fiorentina face Inter, Milan play Roma and Parma meet Juventus -- could be crucial.



Argentinina Hernan Crespo had a quiet night for Parma only managing a hat-trick.

PARMA WINS BY
31 GOALS

It was a score more suited to a rugby match than a soccer game. UEFA Cup holders Parma warmed up for the Italian season with a 31-0 victory over local side Morgex 31-0 during their summer retreat in the Alps.

Croatian forward Mario Stanic scored eight of Parma's goals, new signing Marco Di Vaio weighed in with four while Argentine striker Hernan Crespo hit a hat-trick.

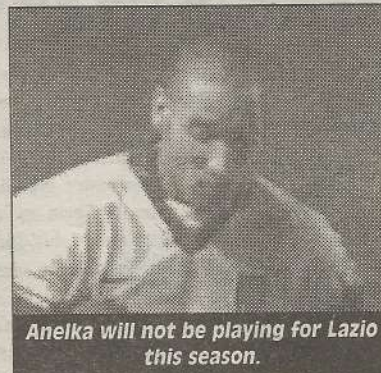
Parma's win was the biggest recorded by a Serie A side this year but by no means the only one-sided rout. Fiorentina thrashed a team from the Alpine resort of Bormio 15-0 and beat another from nearby Valtellina 12-0.

Venezia won one game 17-0 while newly-promoted Torino have a goal difference of 85-1 from six friendlies played against teams from the Val D'Aosta near the French border.

Bari won their opening friendly 14-0 while Cagliari triumphed 12-0 in theirs. Piacenza have hammered village teams 16-1 and 13-0 this month.

Big Italian teams have a tradition of retreating to the calm and relative cool of the Alps in July and August.

Matches against local sides form an important but not always representative part of their training.



Anelka will not be playing for Lazio this season.

Compiled by

EUROPE

Soccer Weekly



French League Preview

Saint-Etienne's return to its traditional home among the top French League teams puts all the big guns in French soccer in place for the new season, which starts on Friday.

Among the leading players, Monaco stars of past and present set to steal the limelight in what should prove a more open race than the two-horse affair of last season between Girondins Bordeaux and Olympique Marseille.

Argentine World Cup midfielder Marcelo Gallardo is the man around whom Monaco is building a side to challenge for the title they won in 1997.

Brazilian Sonny Anderson, who contributed 19 goals when Monaco took the honors that season, has returned to France from two seasons with Barcelona to lead the Olympique Lyon attack.

Argentine defender Nestor Fabbri of Nantes, the outstanding foreigner last season, is now surrounded by South Americans.

Anderson and Gallardo are merely the highest-profile of the influx from the region.

Lyon and Monaco have both recruited strongly after a season in which they fell short, allowing the championship to quickly develop into duel between

Bordeaux, who won their fifth title, and Marseille.

Monaco, which is in the UEFA Cup, signed an Italian for the first time in Marco Simone from Paris St Germain to line up alongside French World Cup striker David Trezeguet and in front of Gallardo.



Sonny Anderson has become the highest paid footballer in France after signing for Lyon from Barcelona.

winger Tony Vairelles from 1998 champions RC Lens and veteran defender Pierre Laigle from Sampdoria.

"We've made a huge investment (\$41.5 million in total). If we took this decision it was not by chance, but rather a calculated risk," Lyon president said Jean-Michel Aulas, whose club have never won the championship.

Bordeaux should be as strong as last season with the much-traveled Stephane Ziani, a title winner with Lens, back from Deportivo La Coruna to replace player-of-the-season Ali Benarbia, who left for PSG.

Bordeaux fell 1-0 to French Cup holder Nantes, the least changed side with no new signings, in the season-opening Champions' Trophy match.

Nantes, however, will have to pray the result is not a curse, for Paris St Germain had a disastrous season after winning the same trophy a year ago.

Marseille surprisingly let Laurent Blanc go to Inter Milan but went some way to appeasing its angry fans with the capture of River Plate's Argentine international Eduardo Berizzo.

It has reinforced its midfield by taking Spaniard Ivan de La Pena on loan from Lazio and signing gifted teenager Stephane Dalmat from Lens.

Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli said: "The missed title last season remains a very bad memory. We want revenge and I'm convinced OM has acquired the means for a magnificent run both in the championship and European Cup."

All four clubs are expecting to do well this season, at the very least qualifying for the next Champions League, by contrast to PSG, which is treading warily after a poor ninth-place finish in May, and promoted Saint-Etienne.

Les Verts, the French champion a record 10 times, is back among the elite after relegation in 1996 and dangerously flirting with a drop into the third division 14 months ago.

"We're not going to insult our supporters with beautiful words and promises," club president Alain Bompard said. "It will be a season of transition. Our fans demand that we don't go back down, that's the essential for this season."

Saint-Etienne's major signing is the experienced defender Jean-Guy Wallemme, who won the title with Lens before a short, unhappy spell at Coventry in England which he cut short to return to France with Sochaux.

Eschewing star players, Bompard said: "I want the club to form a group of warriors that will be carried by their people. Les Verts succeeded this way in the past. Why not again?"

Philippe Bergeroo, third of PSG's three coaches last season, said: "After two catastrophic seasons in the championship, we no longer dare have objectives."

Out of Europe for the first time since 1992, PSG has again looked to Brazil for inspiration as it tries to recover from a nightmare season, signing defender Cesar from Portuguesa and striker Christian from Internacional.

Benarbia, arguably the best uncapped player in the country who could



Marcelo Gallardo has come from River Plate to help Monaco reach the glory days of 1997.

turn out for either Algeria or France, should be the Parisians' key player as he looks to win a third league title in four years with three different clubs.

Olympique Marseille defender Patrick Blondeau has been suspended for one month for a dangerous tackle on Yves Deroff of Nantes in the two sides' final match of the 1998-1999 season.

The ban, handed out by the French league's disciplinary committee, leaves Blondeau free to play in Marseille's first match of the new season at home to promoted Sedan.

MAJOR FRENCH LEAGUE TRANSFERS FOR THIS SEASON

Sonny Anderson	Olympique Lyon	\$19.5 (French record)
Stephane Dalmat	Olym. Marseille	\$11.5
Stephane Ziani	Girondins Bordeaux	\$11.3
Tony Vairelles	Lyon	\$10.0
Laurent Robert	Paris St-Germain	\$10.0
Marcelo Gallardo	Plate Monaco	\$9.36
Olivier Dacourt	Lens	\$8.6
Pierre Laigle	Lyon	\$8.3
Jocelyn Blanchard	Lens	\$7.6
Ibrahim Bakayoko	Marseille	\$6.6
Jerome Bonnisel	Bordeaux	\$6.0
Stephane Guivarc'h	AJ Auxerre	\$5.8
Kaba Diawara	Marseille	\$5.8
Cesar	PSG	\$5.3
Sebastien Perez	Marseille	\$4.2
Joseph-Desire Job	Lens	\$4.16
Ali Benarbia	PSG	\$3.3
Eduardo Berizzo	Marseille	\$3.3
Christian Bassila	Rennes	\$2.5
Ivan de la Pena	Marseille	On loan
Marco Simone	Monaco	Fee unknown.

FRENCH LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

1999	Girondins Bordeaux	1989	Olympique Marseille
1998	RC Lens	1988	Monaco
1997	Monaco	1987	Girondins Bordeaux
1996	AJ Auxerre	1986	Paris St-Germain
1995	Nantes	1985	Girondins Bordeaux
1994	Paris St-Germain	1984	Girondins Bordeaux
1993	none	1983	Nantes
	(Marseille stripped of title)	1982	Monaco
1992	Olympique Marseille	1981	Saint-Etienne
1991	Olympique Marseille	1980	Nantes
1990	Olympique Marseille		

"Simone and Gallardo, whose qualities and records speak for themselves, are two players who fit the shape we want to give the club," Monaco president Jean-Louis Campora said.

Lyon, which is in the Champions League's third preliminary round, signed Anderson for a French record \$20 million and also snapped up exciting

President to help unwanted players

Barcelona president Josep Lluís Nunez said he would do his best to find new clubs for three unwanted players — Miguel Angel Nadal, Albert Celedes and Roger Garcia.

All three were told last month by Dutch coach Luis van Gaal they are surplus to requirements at the league champions.

The trio have another year left on their contracts and have accompanied Barcelona to Holland, where the club is conducting its pre-season training. They have suffered the indignity of having to train apart from the main squad.

"The club will help all of them to leave," Nunez said in Barcelona.



"I have promised to each player personally that I will help them where possible. Although the price depends on which club is interested in them."

Defender Nadal, capped 45 times by Spain and celebrated last Wednesday, his 33rd birthday is believed to have caught the eye of Mallorca.

Celedes, in Spain's 1998 World Cup squad, has been banned by Nunez from negotiating with arch-rivals Real Madrid but Celta Vigo have shown an interest in the 23 year-old midfielder.

Roger has looked to be on his way to Monaco on several occasions in recent months but talks have broken down.

PLAYER DIES ON PITCH

Romanian police launched an inquiry into the death of a first division player who collapsed minutes after coming on to the pitch last weekend.

"A suspicious death occurred and police have started investigating the case," Robert Cazanciuc, a public prosecutor, said by telephone. "We'll know within three weeks which people and institutions were responsible and to which extent."

Stefan Vrabioru, 23, fell to the ground soon after coming on as a substitute for Astra Ploiesti in his first division debut away to Rapid Bucharest.

He was pronounced dead in hospital. The match continued and ended in a 1-1 draw.

Vrabioru's death has transfixed the country of 22 million. Media and medical and legal officials suggest he was given poor treatment, and say soccer officials and emergency services were negligent and ducked their responsibilities.

Television stations have repeatedly shown footage of Vrabioru being removed from the field on a stretcher, and of relatives weeping by his open coffin at the family home.

An initial autopsy by Romania's Forensic Institute was inconclusive in establishing the cause of death but found more than a liter of blood in Vrabioru's stomach. There was no evidence of heart or stomach problems, or of a physical blow.

"We are looking at drugs or a viral infection, but won't know anything precise for about three weeks," institute director Vladimir Belis told a news conference.

Romania's Medical Council accused Rapid of trying to save the equivalent of \$20 by providing an unequipped ambulance for emergencies. It said Astra had no doctor in attendance and Rapid's doctor did not appear on the council's register.

"The ambulance which took Vrabioru to the hospital is the sort of car one would use to transport potatoes, sheets or perhaps a corpse," council vice-president Dragos Nicolescu told reporters.

"We have to establish if the doctor's action was proper or in fact made the situation worse."

Some journalists accused Rapid of deliberately failing to send a doctor to the hospital in the ambulance so that the game could continue and the club would not run the risk of forfeiting three points if it was stopped.

"Stefan Vrabioru's death has brought to light almost all the shortcomings of Romanian soccer," the daily Ziua said.

"The gloss of millions of dollars invested merely to satisfy personal pride failed to hide the moral and general misery reigning in our sport. Unfortunately the death of a man was needed to secure answers to dozens of questions."

Compiled by

EUROPE

Soccer Weekly

WORLD CUP FOR ROBOTS BEGINS

Forget Brazil or France — robots could be the World Cup stars of the new millennium. The Robot World Cup Soccer tournament started in Stockholm on Wednesday including competitions for robot dogs alongside small robots, medium-sized robots and simulated robot soccer.

A team of man-sized automatons are expected to be taking part in the annual championships within three years, RoboCup spokesman Mats Wiklund said.

"This humanoid league will most likely take place in 2002 although we don't expect the robots to stand a chance against humans at that stage," Wiklund said.

"However, we do expect that by 2050 robots will be able to play soccer at World Cup level and possibly beat human teams."

The RoboCup has attracted an increasingly large following since it started in Nagoya, Japan, in 1997 with 40 teams.

RoboCup 1998 was held in Paris and next year's competition will be played in Melbourne.

RoboCup 99 in Stockholm will see 90 teams from 20 countries competing in 20-minute matches in the four leagues.

The small robot league involves robots about 15 cms in diameter — roughly the size of a tea-cup — playing on a pitch the size of a table tennis table. An overhead camera monitors the game and sends signals to the robot telling it how to move.

The medium-sized league has robots of 50 cms diameter and 80 cms high — about the size of small wastepaper bin. They have cameras attached and are programmed to detect the ball and communicate with other players.

The simulated league is played on computers while the dog league involves 30cm long Aibo robot dogs from Sony.

Wiklund said the main rule was a ban on human interference.

"You have to program the robots beforehand so they can take care of any situation that might arise," Wiklund said.

This can lead to some mishaps as the technology develops.

"Last year one robot which was programmed to detect the ball by its orange color got the idea that a spectator wearing exactly the same color T-shirt was the ball," Wiklund said.

"The robot locked on to that person and tried to get off the pitch to him. In the end the organizers had to ask him to put a jacket on over his T-shirt."

Wiklund said there was a serious side to the event which is being held in Stockholm in conjunction with the International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence.

The purpose is to promote research in artificial intelligence and robotics by providing a standard challenge where a range of technologies can be examined.

Soccer-playing robots have to find and direct the ball and communicate within a team in a demanding, real-life scenario.

"This kind of technology can be applied to clearing minefields, search and rescue operations after an earthquake or in space when the distance is so great that you can't operate the equipment by remote control," Wiklund said.



Brazilian Juninho is unwanted at Atletico by the new coach

Atletico Madrid's new coach Claudio Ranieri said that the Brazilian midfielder Juninho was not part of his plans.

"It is not that he would not fit into my system, it's just that I have other thoughts," Ranieri said at his first press conference since taking over.

"It's hard to decide you don't want some players because they are all professionals, and we are taking about great players.

"Those that I don't chose, it's not because they are no good, it's because I have a very extensive squad," Ranieri added.

However, it was not so extensive that he could offer Leeds United 10 million pounds (\$16.07 million) for Dutch striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink. The English club rejected the bid.

JUNINHO TO BE DITCHED BY ATLETICO

Ranieri's decision to ditch Juninho will come as no surprise to those following the pre-season progress of Atletico.

The Italian coach, who guided Valencia to victory in the Spanish Cup and fourth place in the Spanish first division last season, was shown on television earlier in the week castigating his new team during training for being Juninho's workhorses on the pitch.

"If Juninho wants the ball then he is going to have to move," Ranieri shouted at his players.

Earlier this month, Ranieri said of Juninho, "he's a great player but it would be better if he leaves."

English clubs Aston Villa and Middlesbrough have been touted as the most likely destinations for Juninho, who looked to be on the point of leaving Atletico for Villa in the middle of last season until transfer talks broke down.

His contract runs until the end of June 2002 and Atletico is looking to recoup a substantial amount of the \$19.71 million they paid Middlesbrough for his services.

PARTIZAN ON THE WAY AFTER HOME WIN

Partizan Belgrade were on course for a Champions League berth with a 3-1 second qualifying round, first leg, win over Croatian runners-up Rijeka.

Defender Mladen Krstajic was Partizan's unlikely hero with two goals.

The Yugoslav champions made a flying start when captain Sasa Ilc beat goalkeeper Djoni Tafta with a brilliant chip from the edge of the box, after a superb through ball by Djordje Tomic.

The hosts doubled their lead midway through the first half, as Krstajic headed Tomic's cross into the roof of the net.

Rijeka nearly pulled one back in the 30th minute, but Nikola Damjanac pulled off an astonishing save from close range.

Barnabas Stipanovic halved Partizan's lead in the 56th minute when he placed the ball past the advancing 'keeper, after a swift breakaway.

Partizan threw men forward in search of a third goal and were rewarded when Krstajic again beat Tafta with a powerful header after a corner.



Sasa Ilc of Partizan(m) takes on two Rijeka players in the Champions League qualifying round.

Results from first leg
CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
Qualifiers

Dynamo Tbilisi2	Zimbru Chisinau1
Rapid Bucharest3	Skonto Riga3
D-Transmash Mogilev0	AIK Solna1
CSKA Moscow2	Molde FK0
Dynamo Kiev2	FK Zalgiris0

FC Haka1	Rangers4
A de Famagusta2	Slovan Bratislava1
Besiktas1	Hapoel Haifa1
Partizan Belgrade3	NK Rijeka1
Sloga Jugomagnat0	Brondby1
Rapid Vienna3	Valetta0
Maribor5	Genk1
IBV Vestmania0	MTK Budapest2
Liteks4	Widzew Lodz1

PORTUGAL WINS AS MARADONA SET TO GO

The final of the European under 18 championships has been won by Portugal after they defeated the fancied Italians by a goal to nil.

The championships which have been held in Sweden was decided by a single goal as Portuguese striker, Paulo, put home the winner in the 33 minute.

Former World Cup star Diego Maradona is set to visit the Falkland Islands following an agreement between the Argentine and British governments permitting Argentine nationals to visit the disputed territory, media reports said.

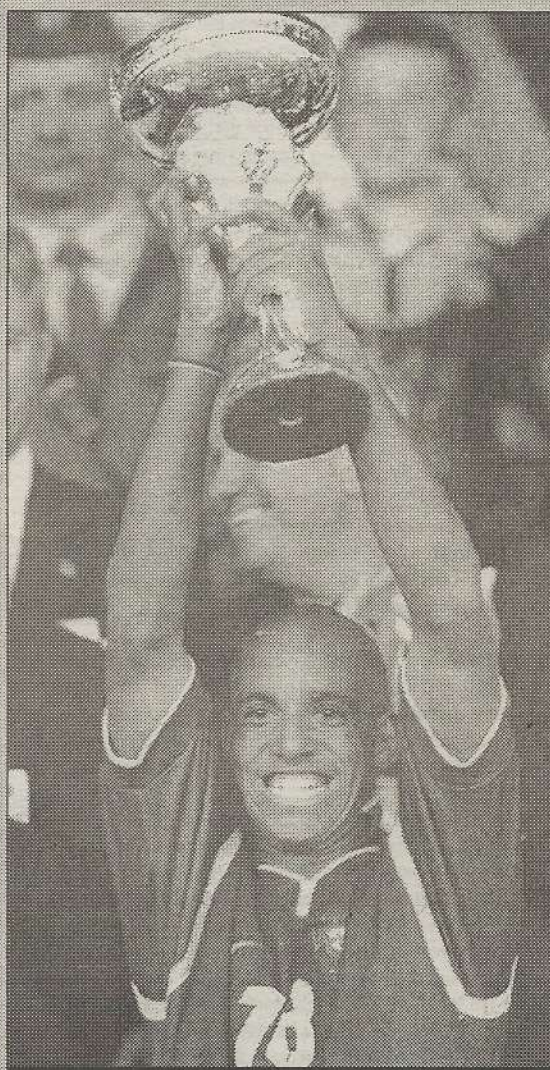
Flights to the South Atlantic islands over which Britain and Argentina fought a 1982 war, are set to restart on Oct. 16, after last week's agreement struck between the two governments lifted an embargo on visits by Argentine citizens.

Sources close to Maradona said he had reserved eight tickets with Lan Chile airways and would be traveling with his wife, two children and agent Guillermo Coppola, as well as three others.



Diego Maradona

Maradona made an earlier attempt to travel to the Falklands, over which Buenos Aires still claims sovereignty, last May, but the archipelago's Legislative Council turned down his request.



Portuguese captain, Pepa with the trophy.

Compiled by

EUROPE

Soccer Weekly

IN BRIEF

Norwegian champions Rosenborg Trondheim recalled forward Sigurd Rushfeldt from Benfica because the Portuguese club failed to provide a bank guarantee for Rushfeldt's transfer fee.

Rosenborg director Rune Bratseth said the club had lost patience with Benfica. "We had to make our mark that enough was enough. We're not willing to wait any longer," Bratseth told the daily Dagbladet.

A disappointed Rushfeldt, who has been training with Benfica since mid July, arrived back in Norway late last week.

"This transfer has been handled wrongly," Rushfeldt was quoted as saying. "The worst thing is not coming back home but that the matter was not cleared up when I went to Benfica."

Benfica had already paid 6 million Norwegian crowns (\$763,300) for Rushfeldt and were committed to providing a bank guarantee for the remaining 24 million crowns.

Rushfeldt has been the target of a number of top European clubs. He finished top scorer in Norway with 25 goals in 1997 and again in 1998 with 27.

Celta Vigo's summer spree continued with the announcement that it had signed Argentina striker Gustavo Lopez.

Lopez, 26, has 37 caps to his name and moves to Celta from another Spanish first division club, Real Zaragoza.

He failed to make the Argentine squad for France '98 but was recalled after Marcelo Bielsa took over in September and he has played in most of his country's internationals since.

The arrival of Lopez means that the tally of Celta's summer signings has risen to 10,

although the club has also sold five of last season's first team squad.

No financial details of the Lopez transfer have been disclosed.

The mayor of Bruges is yanking the welcome mat out from under fans of Anderlecht for fears of violence.

Patrick Moenaert has sent a letter to Club Bruges banning ticket sales to Brussels supporters for a Sept. 12 match.

"It's mainly because of what happened last time," a spokeswoman for Moenaert said.

"There's always a risk of problems."

A Club Bruges victory over Anderlecht last January, which pushed Bruges to the top of the first division, was marred when angry Anderlecht fans ripped up plastic seats and hurled them onto the pitch. The match was halted for more than 10 minutes.

In September, in Brussels, 13 policemen were injured, including one seriously, after frustrated Anderlecht fans poured into the streets when Bruges took a 3-0 lead.

Brazilian striker Ronaldo has pledged himself to a United Nations campaign for peace in Kosovo and will visit the Serbian province in August, Gazzetta dello Sport reported.

It said Ronaldo made the announcement in Rio de Janeiro, where he is relaxing before returning to Inter Milan for the start of the Italian championship.



Ronaldo

Police fired shots in the air to clear Crvena Zvezda fans off the pitch in Cacak, central Serbia, on the first day of the Yugoslav soccer championship.

About 20 people were treated for injuries and three were kept in hospitals, Dragan Vukotic, a surgeon at the local hospital, told Reuters.

Studio B television in Belgrade earlier said 200 people were injured, including a policeman, after about 1,000 people fought and threw rocks, sticks and iron bars.

Visiting Zvezda (formerly Red Star) fans invaded the pitch after their team took the lead in the ninth minute against league newcomer Borac. Radio Belgrade reported that stewards took 24 minutes to clear the pitch.

After the home team equalized toward the end of the first half, about 200 Zvezda fans ran riot again.

Police had to fire numerous shots in the air to stop the rampaging, but several shots were also heard coming from the fans' side, the television report said, the game ended 2-2.

THE FRENCH ARE OFF AND Running

Olympique Lyon, which has spent \$41.5 million building a team for the Champions' League, suffered a 2-1 home upset by Montpellier in their opening match of the French season.

Lyon will want to field record signing Sonny Anderson, who has just recovered from injury, as soon as possible after an unexpected defeat sparked by former France striker Patrice Loko's 25th-minute opening goal.

"Technically we were in form and we played a good away match," said Loko, whose players have five Intertoto Cup games under their belts.

Substitute Cedric Barbosa added Montpellier's second in the 73rd, against the run of play as Lyon improved after the half.

French winger Tony Vairelles, signed from 1998 champions RC Lens, pulled one back with a volley 11 minutes from time for Lyon, which enters the European Cup in the third preliminary round in only a matter of days.

"It's always hard to start a season with a defeat, but it's not the end of the world and I hope we can learn from it," Vairelles said.

Olympique Marseille, pipped to the title by Girondins Bordeaux in May, tops the opening day standings. It won 3-0 at home against Sedan, which has returned to the top flight after 25 years.

Bordeaux beat Bastia 3-2 at home Friday.

Former Everton striker Ibrahim Bakayoko, man of the match at the Velodrome, put Marseille in front in the 26th minute from Fabrizio Ravanelli's headed pass.

France's Christophe Dugarry — playing while his doping case is under appeal — chipped a fine second goal seven minutes later.

Sedan goalkeeper Nicolas Sachy saved a Peter

Luccin penalty in the 76th minute before Marseille substitute Djamel Belmadi struck a brilliant third goal in injury time.

"We had an average match and were a bit nervous but we succeeded in scoring at the right moments against a Sedan side with nothing to lose," coach Roland Courbis said.

Paris St. Germain hit the woodwork three times before overcoming 10-man Troyes 1-0 after the promoted team's captain Frederic Arpinon became the first player sent off in the first division this season.



Christian Vieri(r) takes on Cesar(l) of Real Madrid.

Arpinon was shown the red card for violent play in the 54th minute and six minutes later Laurent Robert scored the only goal with a free kick, which took a deflection off Troyes' Argentine defender Luciano Zavagno.

France World Cup striker Stephane Guivarc'h, top scorer in the first division in 1997 and 1998, marked his return to AJ Auxerre after a disappointing season in Britain with the opening goal in a 2-1 home win over Nancy.

Swiss Alexandre Comisetti, signed from

Grasshopper, volleyed Auxerre's second from a fine, low cross by Guivarc'h.

An injury-time goal from Fernando Morientes bought Real Madrid a 3-2 win over Inter Milan in a friendly at San Siro.

Both teams fielded strong sides with several summer signees.

Inter, under new coach Marcello Lippi, featured its world-record signee Christian Vieri in attack but was without Brazilian Ronaldo, who was resting after the Copa America.

It was two of Real's new faces who combined to help open the scoring in the 21st minute.

England international Steve McManaman was brought down after a weaving run down the right and Inter keeper Fabrizio Ferron could only parry Bosnian Elvir Bolovic's fierce free kick with Raul making no mistake as he followed up.

Inter enjoyed the better of the early possession and drew level in the 30th when Vieri tapped in from close range after Alvaro Recoba headed a Francesco Moriero cross into his path.

But straight from the restart Morientes latched onto a through ball from Raul and blasted past Ferron.

With both teams looking lively in attack but shaky on defense, Inter could have drawn level in the 36th minute when Vieri put Roberto Baggio in on goal but he sliced wide.

A stream of substitutions spoiled what had promised to be a fascinating second half but the drama was saved for the final minute.

Inter substitute Andrea Pirlo jinked into the penalty area and fired a powerful shot past Real keeper Bodo Illgner and seemed to have given Inter a draw.

But in injury time a low shot from Real substitute Guti was pushed out by Ferron and Morientes pounced.

MATTHAEUS DECLINES
FEDERATION JOB OFFER

Germany veteran Lothar Matthaeus has said that he has declined a job offer from the German Football Federation (DFB).

The 38-year-old, competing for Germany in the Confederations Cup, said he did not believe he could combine the proposed new management role with his playing career.

The Bayern Munich star scored in the 2-0 Confederations Cup win over New Zealand and still believes he has a lot to offer as a player.

Matthaeus, who with Mexico's Antonio Carbajal holds the achievement of having played in five World Cups, said: "It is always good to keep your distance from players."

If I were to accept a job with the Federation now there would not have been enough distance between my playing role and my direction role.

"Today I see players as friends and it will be difficult afterwards to have to socialize with them. Perhaps I will one day work for the German federation but it will be after 2004."

Matthaeus has suggested in previous interviews he may quit the national team after next summer's European Championships in Holland and Belgium but has not ruled out a role in his country's World Cup qualifying campaign for the 2002 tournament.

Matthaeus has also been rumored to be moving to the United States to play for the New York/New Jersey MetroStars of Major League Soccer.

Austrian international soccer player Klaus Rohseano, suspected to have suffered a stroke during a national team training camp last week, will

has remain in Vienna hospital.

Austrian national team spokesman Wolfgang Gramann said on that the 29-year-old LASK Linz midfielder had to undergo further examinations after he collapse at Neusidl am See near Vienna.

"His brain, lungs and heart have already been checked," said Gramann, adding the exact reason for the collapse had not yet been diagnosed.

"He can speak normally and also get up and walk. There are no signs of a remaining paralysis," added Gramann.

Less than a week before the action heats up on the pitch, Dutch champion Feyenoord appealed to its fans to behave and to buy into the club's bond scheme.

Chairman Jorien van der Herik said UEFA had told the Rotterdam-based club it was drinking in the last chance saloon after disturbances marred a friendly against Bayer Leverkusen at the start of the year.

Championship celebrations in April also turned sour when a number of fans rioted and police opened fire.

"I hope the fans are aware of how serious the situation is. Only the slightest thing needs to happen for us to be kicked out. I have been told this in clear black and white terms," he said.

As Dutch champion, Feyenoord has earned automatic entry to the Champions League.

Van der Herik's second appeal is for the club's supporters to buy the club's bonds — priced at 500 guilders (\$242) each.

"We've transformed a club from the verge of bank-



Lothar Matthaeus

ruptcy (in 1991) to one with a solid financial position as champions and Champions League participants. For the next step we need capital," Van der Herik said.

The club is hoping to raise about 50 million guilders but is unwilling to say how much it has raised so far.

Coach Leo van Beenhakker has brought in three lesser names from other Dutch sides as well as Somalia, a relatively unknown Brazilian. He says he has four positions to strengthen.

While archrivals face another season stripped of some of their finest talents Feyenoord has managed to hold on to their title-winning squad, including defender Bert Konterman and midfielder Jean-Paul van Gastel.

The two internationals were reportedly the targets of Real Madrid and AS Roma respectively.

Compiled by

UK

Soccer Weekly

GAZZA URGED TO GO FOR IT

Kevin Keegan has urged Paul Gascoigne to grab his chance to come to England's rescue.

The national coach is so anxious to make use of Gazza's talent that he will personally check on his form in the first fortnight of the new season.



Paul Gascoigne is wanted by Kevin Keegan back in the England side.

"I am deadly serious and I have put it on the record," said Keegan.

He stressed that Gascoigne must get his mind as well as his body in order if he is to be called up for the Euro qualifiers against Luxembourg and Sweden early in September.

And Keegan says he has no intention of misleading Gazza — an accusation levelled at his predecessor Glenn Hoddle — when he says he is keeping the door open for a return.

"I don't think there's any doubt that playing for England means a lot to Paul Gascoigne," said Keegan.

"I think from Gazza's point of view that it is important he lasts 90 minutes.

"It is important that players feel strong and fit, and feel that they can last the pace.

"I will see it first-hand for myself. I would like to wait a week or two into the season, then have a look. I think a recall is still realistic, providing Paul is fit and feels right mentally.

"But his performance for Middlesbrough will tell us that. You cannot hide in the Premiership. You cannot kid anyone.

"What you see is what you get. That applies to everybody, every game, whether you are playing Bradford at home or Liverpool away.

"Gascoigne is one of a number of players, not a big band, who can do things that can change a game."

Keegan does not have long to make up his mind about the squad. He named Chris Sutton, Paul Ince and Kieron Dyer as other players whom he will personally assess.

HASSELBAINK HOUNDS LEEDS FOR MORE MONEY

Leeds United have been stunned by a demand from Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink for £45,000 a week to commit himself to the club.

The 27-year old striker risked the wrath of teammates and supporters by declaring that Leeds would have to make him one of the highest paid players in the Premiership before he would consider signing a new long-term contract.

Chairman Peter Ridsdale was prepared to put him out on his own as the club's top earner on £25,000 a week but had to abandon any hope of a quick settlement when Hasselbaink hit back with his amazing claim.

There is mounting anger within Elland Road that the deadlock follows news that Atletico Madrid have bid £10 million for Hasselbaink.

Leeds rejected the Spanish club's bid but they are dismayed that their Dutch striker, a £2m buy from Portuguese side Boavista two years ago, believes he is worth double the terms recently accepted by Nigel Martyn, Lucas Radebe and Harry Kewell.

Ridsdale said: "Jimmy still has two years left on his current contract and we will carry on trying to reach an agreement with him.

"I would never say an offer is final because there is

often room for manoeuvre but what he is asking for is way in excess of our pay code and, indeed, would be beyond any structure that you could possibly call sensible.

"There are several top-class international players at this club who have either signed or reached agreement on new deals.

"Everyone who was due for talks on renewing contracts has been sorted out and seems happy with the money we have offered, with just one exception.

"That individual seems to think he is worth more than the rest and is not prepared to accept the best package ever put to a Leeds player.

"It is also disappointing that rumours persist about whether he might want to leave."

Ridsdale dismissed suggestions that manager David O'Leary had threatened to quit if Leeds sold Hasselbaink.

"We are both wholly committed to making sure Leeds go from strength to strength and we have no intention of selling our best players," said the chairman.

Atletico are considering an increased bid and are reportedly ready to pay him the wages he is seeking.



THE NEW WEMBLEY UNVEILED WITH TWO MISSING TOWERS

Designers of the new national stadium will pay tribute to Wembley's rich but imperfect history when they revealed their plans.

Although fans have complained for years about the lack of decent facilities, high ticket prices and restricted views, the old ground remains one of the world's most popular stadiums.

It was originally designed for the 1924 British Empire Exhibition, but a trip to the Twin Towers for the FA Cup Final or an England international still gets the blood racing.

That's why the design team, led by architect Lord Foster and stadium specialists HOK Lobb, have gone out of their way to retain its best features.

The Twin Towers will be going but Bob Stubbs, chief executive of Wembley National Stadium plc, said:

"The design team have done their best to retain all the best bits of the Wembley experience."

It has been learned that:

Instead of rotating the pitch 90 degrees so that it runs from north to south from where the trademark Towers currently stand, it will continue to run from east to west.

Wembley Way, officially known as Olympic Way, will also be retained as the main approach to the stadium and will feature what Stubbs describes as a 'significant architectural feature' instead of the Towers which will be demolished with the rest of the old stadium next year.

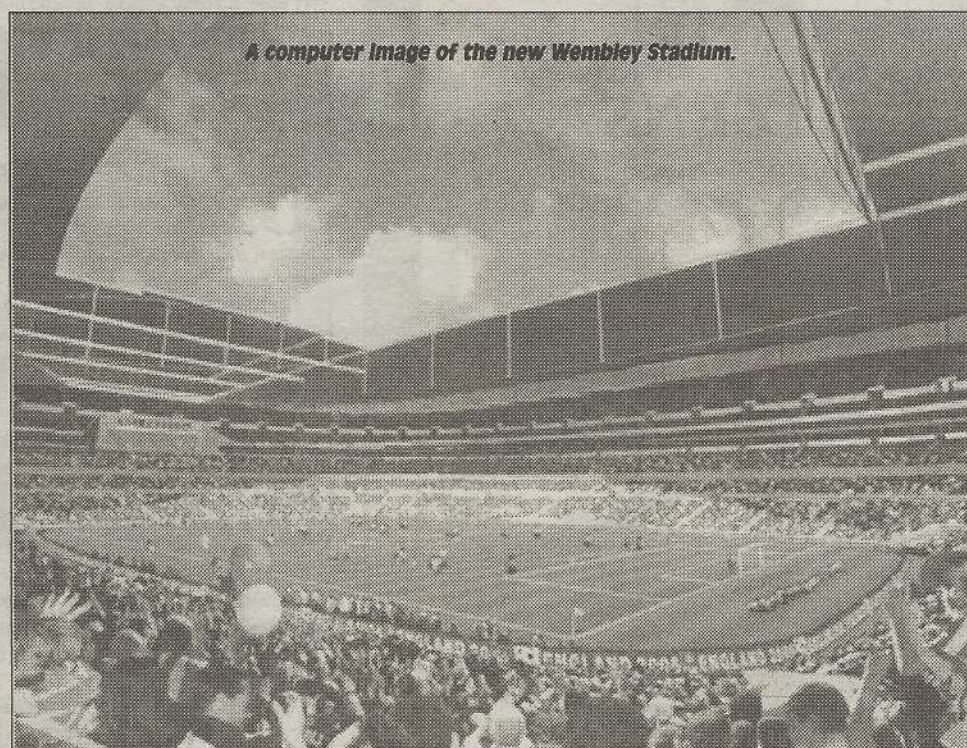
Although they are a listed building, they are a single concrete construction and would cost millions to retain or move. Designers of the new Wembley were keen to see the money spent on other areas.

Seating in the 90,000-capacity arena will be closer to the pitch but will be retractable to allow for a running track to be installed so Wembley can host the Olympic Games or the World Athletics Championships.

The roof will also be movable to regulate sunlight and enable groundstaff to cultivate the perfect playing

surface whatever the event, this similar to what a number of American stadiums can achieve.

On match days it can be moved back to prevent shadows spoiling the view of spectators both in the stadium and watching on television.



A computer image of the new Wembley Stadium.

Stubbs added: "The designers used the current stadium as a starting point — particularly in terms of keeping a one-tier bowl and a design which will keep the noise and atmosphere in. We wanted it to have the feel of the classic English stadium.

"They also wanted people to carry on approaching Wembley from a revamped Wembley Way. After that they drew up their plans from a business perspective and listened to the sorts of things we needed and incorporated them into the design.

"They then drew on features from other stadiums, like the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff. But as far as things like the roof and the inclusion of athletics this stadium will be truly innovatory. It really will be the best in the world."

The recently ennobled Lord Foster has never been afraid of innovation. He unveiled plans for his 590-foot 'gherkin' office block on the site of the old Baltic Exchange destroyed by an IRA bomb in 1992.

The announcement came only weeks after he revealed his 'headlamp-like' designs for the building to house London's new Mayor and the Greater London Authority to be situated on the banks of the Thames.

But the design team also took their lead from some of the world's most recent stadium developments.

Stadium Australia, the 110,000-capacity Olympic venue built for next September's Olympic Games, was the work of Wembley designers HOK Lobb.

Aspects of the space-age arena, which will also host football, rugby league and Australian rules football, are certain to feature in the new Wembley plans.

Architects also copied the 'bowl' design of some of America's best stadia and the Olympic Stadium in Rome. The 82,000-capacity Italian national stadium, also home to Serie A sides Lazio and Roma, was constructed in the 1930s and redeveloped over the years to become the centrepiece for the World Cup in 1990.

But Wembley's owners and the FA didn't want the atmosphere of the stadium ruined by having a running track between the crowd and the pitch — as is the case in Rome's Stadio Olimpico.

In fact the new stadium will be more like Cardiff's £125m Millennium Stadium. The 72,500-capacity stadium, which will host this autumn's rugby World Cup Final, has been designed so the crowd are as close to the pitch as possible.

The designers also sought inspiration from the magnificent Stade de France — the scene for last summer's World Cup Final. While they acknowledged its architectural achievements they raised doubts over the atmosphere the arena created. Stubbs said: "We want to create an experience for fans — not an architectural monument."

Compiled by

UK

Soccer Weekly

PLAYERS RISK BURNING OUT

England boss Kevin Keegan fears the demands of modern football risk burning out young players like Michael Owen and David Beckham.

A jam-packed fixture list, along with rule changes to speed up the game — such as the back-pass law — have increased the number of active minutes per match.

Keegan said: "It used to be a simple matter to kill a game, but you cannot kill a game now."

"They are fit boys, finely tuned. But if you look at athletes there is a difference. For example,

when Linford Christie was at his best he would choose to miss an event in, say, Zurich and then go to Copenhagen.

"It's difficult to do that in football. David Beckham played 64 games last season.

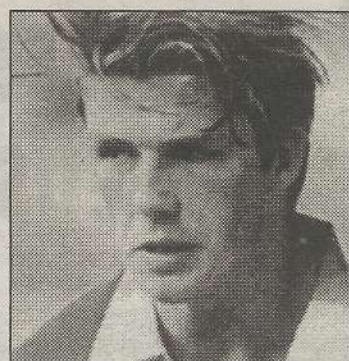
"Look at the Champions League. When we played it was a knock-out tournament and you were either through or out. When we won the European Cup at Liverpool we played around nine games. Now it's 17.

"Rule changes have speeded the game up. The ball may be in play 60 minutes but during that 60 minutes the players are on the move all the time.

"It's different from when we played. It was at a slower pace then."

Hence, it was no coincidence that both Owen and Beckham succumbed to hamstring injuries.

Owen has had treatment from German expert Dr Muller-Wohlfahrt and is



Players such as Beckham face burning out.

expected to be fit to start Liverpool's season. Keegan said: "It's great news.

"I will be much happier if Michael is playing in every game when I pick the squad in August.

"It helped me when Liverpool boss Gerard Houllier phoned before the Poland game to warn me that though Michael and Robbie Fowler were travelling down to meet up with the rest of the squad, they had no chance of playing.

"That allowed me to start thinking of who else I could get.

"It marks my card and, to be fair, Alex Ferguson did it with Gary Neville. He told me 'He is going to have an operation, I'm telling you now.' That helps a lot."

FERGUSON FORCED TO BOLSTER SQUAD

Sir Alex Ferguson will redouble his efforts to bolster his squad after being deprived of England defender Wes Brown for most of the new season with a training ground injury.

Treble-winning Manchester United are seriously weakened defensively after Brown damaged cruciate ligaments in his right knee.

United are already expected to start the season without Gary Neville, Ronny Johnsen, Ryan Giggs and Roy Keane.

With doubts over Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and David Beckham, Ferguson conceded that he will have to scour Europe for replacements.

The Champions League transfer deadline of August 31 is looming fast on the horizon and United's manager admitted the lack of numbers in his squad was a worry — even if Keane's contract dispute can be solved.

United's only summer signing was the arrival of Mark Bosnich as goalkeeping replacement for the departed Peter Schmeichel.

Sir Alex said: "We have to look at the type of players who come within our wage structure and that limits you in some way.

"We have a good strong squad but I think we also need to add one or two more when you look at the challenge from Europe this year.

"We have also got to go to Tokyo and take part in the Brazilian tournament and that, plus hopefully 17 games in Europe, means a big, big challenge for us."

Brown, 19, who was awarded his first international cap by Kevin Keegan in England's 1-1 draw in Hungary in April, will see a specialist to determine the extent of the injury.

But the immediate diagnosis is that Brown may not play this season and will certainly not be available until well after the turn of the year.

Sir Alex was clearly distressed for Brown as he announced the scale of the problem.

He said: "Wes has damaged cruciate ligaments and will be out for most of the season. There are no plans at this stage to operate.

"We are just letting the injury settle down before we decide how to deal with it. We are all very upset for him."

England right-back Neville, able to cover in the centre of the back line, is still suffering the after-effects of the hip injury which forced him out of England's end-of-season games against Sweden and Bulgaria, with no estimation yet of when he will be fit to return.

Versatile Norway defender Johnsen is an absentee for the opening weeks of the new season after picking up a knee injury during the summer.

That means the United defence for their first few games virtually picks itself, with Phil Neville and Denis Irwin on the flanks and Jaap Stam partnering Henning Berg in the middle.

The only cover is provided by David May — restricted by injury and lack of form to a handful of games last season — and England Under 21 international John Curtis.

In addition to the problems which will see United kicking off the defence of domestic and continental crowns without Giggs and Keane, Solskjaer is recovering from a longstanding knee problem and Beckham is returning from the hamstring injury he suffered while playing for England against Sweden in June.

Curtis, 20, made only one Premiership start in the treble-winning campaign after his deficiencies were exposed by Arsenal's Marc Overmars in a vital Old Trafford game between the clubs in the previous season.

Brown rose through United's junior ranks to become an established member of the first team squad. He made his debut in the final week of the 1997-98 season then totalled 21 senior appearances, including 16 starts, last term to earn his England call.

Concern at Brown's absence will be intensified by continuing fitness worries over Gary Neville. He was forced out of the England games in June because of 'wear and tear.'

Peterborough teenagers Matthew Etherington and Simon Davies have begun a five-day trial at Old Trafford to allow United's backroom team to assess their potential.

Both were Peterborough regulars last season and Etherington was a member of England's World Youth Cup squad in Nigeria.



GROBBELAAR WINS

Bruce Grobbelaar, the former Liverpool and Zimbabwe goalkeeper, has won a high-profile libel case against Britain's top-selling Sun newspaper over match-fixing allegations.

Britain's High Court awarded Grobbelaar 85,000 pounds (\$134,900) damages. The paper will also have to pay the Zimbabwean's costs, estimated at 500,000 pounds (\$793,800).

Judge Charles Gray said the damages did not have to be paid for 21 days, pending any Sun appeal.

The paper's attorney George Carman said the Sun would appeal both the verdict and the level of damages.

Grobbelaar's lawyers have described the Sun's allegations as a "classic scam," saying he had been wronged when he tried to expose corruption.

The case comes two years after Grobbelaar and fellow premier league players John Fashanu and Hans Segers were found not guilty on criminal charges of conspiring to help fix matches for Asian betting syndicates.

The Football Association handed Grobbelaar and Segers six-month bans and 10,000-pound (\$15,800) fines, both sus-

pending, after the two goalkeepers admitted in court that they tried to help the Asian syndicates forecast match results. But neither tried to predict the scores from their own teams' matches they said.

After the verdict, Grobbelaar kissed his wife in court and then made an immediate phone call on his mobile after the judge had left.

Flanked by his lawyers, he then went to the front steps of the law courts to give a brief statement.

"I would like to thank my counsel, solicitors and the family who have stood by me over the past five years," he said. "It is a day we can all relish in the fact we got the verdict."

"I got the verdict at the criminal trial also."

Grobbelaar, who has recently been involved in coaching in South Africa, said he will return to soccer but would first take a holiday with his family.

"One thing that happened was that there was a unanimous verdict from the jury," he said.

He added that he had not brought the case for the money, saying, "I was just trying to clear my name."



CHEAPEST PRICES TO
SOUTH AMERICA,
EUROPE, USA & ASIA



BONANZA

SPECIAL REDUCED
AIR FARES FOR
SENIOR CITIZENS

You will not be disappointed
RING NOW

9660 5736



HEAD OFFICE:
1-9 Glebe Point Road
GLEBE NSW 2037
PH: (02) 9660 5736
Lic: No: 2TA001676

Compiled by

UK

Soccer Weekly

VIDUKA SHINES AS CELTIC BURY NEWCASTLE

Celtic's new head coach John Barnes dumped his old side Newcastle as their dismal pre-season tour of Scotland came to an inglorious end.

The St James' Park outfit lost their third game north of the border at Parkhead as Ruud Gullit's multi-million pound men crashed to another defeat.

It has hardly been the best of preparation for the Magpies. They have also been beaten by Livingston and Dundee United.



John Barnes has so far brought out the best from his team.

England skipper Alan Shearer returned to action for the first time in 10 days, but was taken off midway through the second half — and by that time it was all over for his side.

Celtic had taken the lead through former Sheffield United star Olivier Tebily in the 50th minute and in the 69th Mark Viduka slotted past keeper Marc Ziegler, on trial from VfB Stuttgart, for Celtic's second.

Tebily pushed himself up for an Eyal Berkovic corner and rose above the Newcastle defence to nod the ball past the keeper — his first goal for his new club.

But he was allowed all the time in the world to knock the ball past Ziegler.

Shearer had not played since damaging his ankle on Newcastle's pre-season tour in Holland.

There was no place in the 20-man squad for Duncan Ferguson — and boss Ruud Gullit decided to rest new 6million pound midfielder Kieron Dyer.

But Gullit pitched in the rest of his summer signings, including an entire new defence of Elena Marcelino, Alain Goma and Franck Dumas. They all started in front of 60,000 fans.

Around 3,000 supporters made their way from the North-East and they let Dalglish, now the Director of Football at Parkhead, exactly how they felt about him.

Shearer almost opened the scoring with only four minutes gone, heading a Laurent Charvet cross past keeper Stewart Kerr only for Tom Boyd to hack the ball off the line.

Celtic looked like a different team in the second half and they had Israeli genius Berkovic to thank for that. He also created Viduka's goal.

Noses twitched at the scent of intrigue as Mark Viduka's absence was noted from the later stages of Celtic's pre-season trip to Norway.

Could the wayward Aussie with the walkabout tendency have gone AWOL again, leaving John Barnes in the lurch before a ball was kicked in anger?

Further investigation, however, revealed the root of Viduka's non-appearance lay in an ailment of the minor physical variety, rather than the major psychological.

A freak thumb injury required the urgent attention of club physio Brian Scott back at Celtic Park, with Viduka this time taking flight with the full permission of his employers.

"He has gone back to Glasgow for treatment — honestly," quipped one club official, with his tongue pressed deeply into his cheek.

The light-hearted nature in which the inquiry was treated not only indicated the relaxed nature of the new regime, it amply displayed the manner in which Viduka has been embraced by a club with which he felt ill at ease for much of last season.

Financial fights, mental misgivings and an indiscretion of gobsmacking proportions completely overshadowed the 24-year-old's sizeable contribution to the most fruitful spell of an abject season for Celtic.

Eight goals were sandwiched in a brief period between his post-signing wanderlust and his late-season spitting shame and injury problems.

Amid the turmoil which seemed to stalk Viduka, though, those goals were forgotten as quickly as the international striker could drop an 'o' from Marko.

But memories of the Melbourne lad's misdemeanours already have been consigned to a past era where star players were traded and bunnets were essential apparel.

It may be too early to predict a settled and successful season for either Celtic or Viduka, but the early indications are positive.

A hat-trick against Danish champions Aalborg — before the hand injury brought a premature end to his Scandinavian tour — exemplified the threat of the former Croatia Zagreb striker.

Another goal in the 2-0 win over Newcastle United at Celtic Park was further evidence of the striker's recent rehabilitation.

And with the league opener against Aberdeen at Pittodrie — the scene of a Viduka brace in a 5-1 rout in March, he has ample opportunity to persuade head coach Barnes that mind and body are mended.

Thus far — and it must be remembered that the serious stuff is yet to commence — there has been plenty of the good, little of the bad and, thankfully, none of the ugly side of this errant Australian.

And the player himself is at pains to point out that his first full season in Scottish football could prove pivotal in his personal and professional development.

"I feel the pre-season has gone very well, both personally and from a team point of view," said Viduka, after the teams final warm-up match.

"The players are very excited and the atmosphere is tremendous. The new people who have come in have made the players feel at home.

"They make you feel very welcome and that, I think, is what Celtic Football Club is all about. It is great to



Mark Viduka.

be part of a team like this and I am very happy."

Viduka's contentment has been evident in his pre-season displays, with four goals from three starts, and he is keen for the competitive action to begin.

"The game against Aberdeen in March was my second start for Celtic and I scored a couple of goals. It would be nice to do the same again, but we know it is going to be a hard game.

"It is important that we make a good start. All the players realise that fact, and we can't wait to get going because we feel we can play some good football this season and have a lot of success.

"We are getting to know each other on the pitch but we showed against Newcastle that we are not far away."

Viduka also believes Barnes' innovative 4-2-2-2 formation will provide a platform from which a winning team can be moulded on the park.

"The Newcastle game was only the third time I have played in the new system, and whenever anyone introduces a new style of play it takes time for the understanding to come," he said.

"But we showed against Newcastle, and in parts of the Leeds game, that we can play good football this way. The fans have been very patient because they realise it is new.

"It is all about short, sharp passing and we have a lot of skilful players in the team, so it suits us. It is a nice way to play and it is what John wants from us."

The only other things the head coach may desire from Viduka is an extended spell in the first team and a continuation of the scoring form which Celtic fans glimpsed last season — and Mark, at last, appears ready to give him the thumbs up.

IN BRIEF

Former Aston Villa boss Brian Little is talking to West Bromwich Albion about becoming their new manager.

The 45-year-old, who left Second Division Stoke last season, could be the man to succeed Denis Smith who was sacked by Albion.

The club are ready to give their new manager up to £8million to spend on new players.

Former England No.2 John Gorman is considering whether to follow Smith out the door at the First Division club.

Gorman, who only joined the club on a short-term basis last month, has been asked to stay on as caretaker.

But he said: "I came to the club for one person only and that was Denis.

"I have not come to stab him in the back. My loyalties are with Denis. My gut feeling is that I will have to leave."

League Managers' Association chief executive John Barnwell has criticised West Brom for the way they sacked Smith.

Barnwell said he was 'shocked and appalled' to hear that Smith's dismissal had been reported in the third paragraph of a board statement.

"People ought to be treated with respect. The image of West Brom and English football has suffered."

Gianluca Vialli's retirement from playing was confirmed when the Chelsea manager's name was missing from next season's squad list.

Meanwhile Chelsea's Denmark star Bjarne Goldback is poised to join Nottingham Forest after the clubs agreed a £1.5million deal for the 31-year-old midfielder.



Gianluca Vialli.

Wimbledon have run into an injury crisis and manager Egil Olsen admits they are struggling to cope.

The Dons were forced to use goalkeeper Kelvin Davis as an outfield substitute during their 2-0 win at Millwall.

England Under 21 defender Ben Thatcher has been operated on for a collapsed lung and is doubtful for the first Premiership game against Watford.

Centre half Dean Blackwell is also struggling with an inflamed achilles and Michael Hughes, Ceri Hughes, Neal Ardley and Carl Cort are all injured.

Wimbledon will struggle to put a team out for their final pre-season friendly at Bournemouth.

Olsen said: "I have a lot of work to do, and not enough time to do it. Even if all the injuries clear up I still need another midfielder player and will try to get one in before the season gets under way."

Defender Colin Cooper will miss Middlesbrough's first nine matches of the season after suffering a knee ligament injury in the teams 2-0 victory at Dundee United.

Boro are now depending on central defenders Gary Pallister and Gianluca Festa making it in time for the Premiership kick-off next week against Bradford.

Neither has completed a full 90 minutes as they recover from surgery.



David Platt

Forest manager David Platt was given the go-ahead to continue spending after shareholders approved a £12m takeover by London-based venture capitalist Nigel Doughty.

Bolton striker Dean Holdsworth, bought for a club-record £3.75million less than two years ago, is available as part of a major pre-season sale at cash-strapped Wanderers and could leave for as little as £750,000. Holdsworth, 30, said: "These are circumstances out of my control."

Ipswich are waiting to hear whether a £1million bid for Helsingborgs' Sweden international Andreas Jacobsson has been accepted. Boss George Burley moved for the 27-year-old sweeper as soon as the club returned from their pre-season tour of Scandinavia.

Danny Wilson has given up on unsettled Italian Benito Carbone and is determined to sell the £5million-rated striker who has refused to sign a new contract offered five months ago. "We have to look to sell him, otherwise we will lose everything we have put into the player," said Wilson.

BILIC DEAL FAILS

Croatian, Slaven Bilic's proposed move back to the East End of London has fallen through.

The defender had been expected to return to Upton Park from Everton in a move worth up to £1m, but the deal was called off on as the Hammers failed to agree personal terms with the 30-year-old.

West Ham secretary Graham Mackrell said: "The deal is dead in the water.

The two clubs have reached an impasse with the player. It's not something we can salvage."

However, Harry Redknapp appeared to contradict this when he claimed later that it was a medical problem that scuppered the deal.

"Slaven would have been a great player for us but there was a little problem with the medical and we have not been able to do the deal.

"We sold him for £4.5m two years ago so to get him back almost for free would have been fantastic business - a real bargain.

But it didn't work out, which is a shame because Slaven would have loved to have come back here."

Bilic left West Ham for a club record £4.2m in May 1997. He failed to make an impact on Merseyside and quickly became surplus to requirements under Walter Smith.

The Croatian international even trained with the Hammers, but the breakdown leaves Harry Redknapp with a central defensive headache.

Neil Ruddock limped off with a hamstring injury against Heerenveen and Ian Pearce came on for his first appearance since breaking his leg last season.

"I need another central defender and I must have a look around for a bargain," admitted Redknapp.



Bilic was expected to return to Upton Park but the deal has fallen through.

Compiled by

UK

Soccer Weekly

IN BRIEF

Stefan Schwarz has become Sunderland's £4 million record signing in a move that looks likely to save manager Peter Reid from a fans' backlash over the departure of Michael Bridges.

The sale of 20-year-old England Under-21 striker Bridges to Leeds for £5m had made the manager a target for criticism. But Reid believes Sweden midfielder Schwarz will win over the Stadium of Light fans after completing his move from Valencia.

He said, "This signing excites me. With his attitude, he'll be a great asset to the team. If Sweden's game with England at Wembley was anything to go by, our supporters will know they have a top-quality player."

"I'm in charge of the fans' money. Signing a player is important. I may sign another two before the season starts. I'm going to make mistakes but I hope I make more good signings than bad."

The 30-year-old Schwarz will replace Lee Clark, who went to Fulham for £3m. But Reid stressed, "He's not just a playmaker; he puts his foot in as well. You need that in the engine-room."

"He has proved himself in Italy with Fiorentina and in Spain at Valencia and I remember him being outstanding for Benfica against Arsenal — something which persuaded George Graham to bring him to Highbury."

Schwarz's 1994-95 season was his only one with Arsenal but he said, "I'm older and more mature now."

We didn't have the best of seasons at Arsenal. We reached the Cup-winners' Cup Final but were middle of the League."

His Portuguese wife, Ceu, didn't settle well in London. That explains why Schwarz has taken so long to decide the Sunderland move is right for him, his wife and two children. "She won't be a problem," said Reid.

Schwarz added, "It's important everything is sorted out from the beginning and Sunderland have been thorough and really worked at this. Everything has to be right socially as well on the pitch."



Stefan Schwarz with manager Peter Reid.

Liverpool and Middlesbrough have agreed on a £1.25 million deal that will see Paul Ince move to the Riverside in time for the start of the new season.

The fee for the 31-year-old, who officially began his new Boro career on Friday, could well change because of the payment Ince is demanding for the two-years that he has outstanding on his Liverpool contract.

The former Reds captain follows Sean Dundee out of Anfield after the misfit striker returned to the German Bundesliga on Monday when he joined VfB Stuttgart.

Meanwhile, one player who Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier would like to retain is Norwegian International Oyvind Leonhardsen.

Tottenham Hotspur are believed to be preparing a £3 million bid for the midfielder.

THE LAST WEEK BEFORE THE START OF THE SEASON

The number of pre-season friendlies increased again during the week as clubs entered the home-stretch before the season proper begins.

Aberdeen 0-1 Coventry

Noel Whelan scored the only goal of the game at Pittodrie, and came closest to adding to the score, but was denied by Dons' keeper Ryan Esson. Mustapha Hadji also tested the home keeper.



Boreham Wood 0-2 Luton

With a number of trialists on display, Luton were happy with this result against a full-strength Boreham Wood.

One of them, Ipoua, opened the scoring, with Pearson making it 2-0.

Bradford 1-2 Nottingham Forest



More woe for Bradford, who went behind after just two minutes to the club they replaced in the top flight.

Dougie Freedman scored that one, and Marlon Harewood grabbed the winner after transfer-listed defender Wayne Jacobs had levelled the score.

Celtic 2-0 Newcastle

The home side were impressive in front of a packed Parkhead crowd but Newcastle, hesitant in defence, didn't look like they were ready for the start of the season. Goals from Mark Viduka and Olivier Tebily.



Emley 0-2 Rotherham

Rotherham came away from the Moors with a comfortable win on paper, but it was a hard-fought game and a good workout.

Andy Turner and Gary Martindale scored the goals against the side who drew the Millers in last year's FA Cup.

Goole 0-0 Hull

The home side, who have beaten two League sides already in pre-season, almost made it three against Hull, before losing 5-4 on penalties at Victoria Pleasure Grounds.

Hull introduced ten substitutes at the break, but the NCEL Premier Division side couldn't make the breakthrough.

Halifax 1-0 Sunderland

This was hardly the workout Peter Reid had hoped for. Halifax, enjoying a terrific record against bigger clubs this summer, never let the Premiership new-boys settle into their game, and were rewarded with a Chris Tate goal ten minutes after the break.



Hampton 0-4 Brentford

Hampton and Richmond Borough 0-4 Brentford. Robert Quinn, Hermann Hreidarsson, Lloyd Owusu and Andy Scott were the scorers as Brentford continued their fine pre-season.

Hampton, with whom the Bees have developed close ties over the years, had their chances early on, but as the game progressed the strength and skills of Ron Noades' men shone through.

Leyton Orient 0-2 Charlton Athletic

The O's were more than a match for last season's Premiership team in the first-half, but ten changes at the break weakened the home side.

Shaun Newton and Andy Hunt went on to score, but both sides were happy with the work-out. Alan Curbishley is yet to make a decision on Argentine trialist Juan Cobian.



Maldenhead 2-3 Crystal Palace XI

Palace's reserves opened and closed the scoring, but still came out on the losing side.

Both goals were headers — Kember (39 minutes) and substitute Gareth Williams, who scored with his first touch of the ball in the 89th minute.

Former Eagle Gareth Ormshaw was in goal for Maldenhead.

Millwall 0-2 Wimbledon

Egil Olsen tested some squad players in a comfortable win over South London rivals Millwall.

That might come in useful as a number of first-choice players, including Ben Thatcher, Michael Hughes and Dean Blackwell, are doubtful for the start of the season.

A Carl Leaburn header and a low drive from Carl Cort did the damage. The Lions' best chances fell to Neil Harris and Paul Ifill in the second half.



Northwich 1-1 Crewe

It was end-to-end stuff at the Drill Field. The First Division side opened the scoring through Kevin Street, only for Northwich to equalise through Stuart Terry seven minutes before the break.

Rodney Jack came close to a winner, but his shot rebounded off the cross bar just before the final whistle.

Oldham 0-0 Blackburn

The Andy Ritchie testimonial was a good-natured affair, with 4,600 fans turning out to cheer the Oldham manager.

Blackburn's star-studded team added to the occasion, as did Latics' stars of the past, including Earl Barrett and Frankie Bunn.

Thankfully, neither players nor manager were called upon to join in the dance display at half-time. Oldham more than held their own during the game itself.



Peterborough 0-1 Ipswich

David Johnson took the home defence by surprise within the first 60 seconds, turning in the area and finishing with some style.

But thereafter, Posh matched the Division One

side, with Drewe Broughton, Andy Clarke and Jae Martin all guilty of missing good chances.

Both managers will have taken heart from the game, played before nearly 3,000 supporters.

Rochdale 0-1 Burnley

The Division Two side had too much class on the night, Glen Little capping a fine personal display with an individual effort just before the break.

Neither side gave any quarter in a good pre-season work-out.

Stevenage 0-1 Gillingham

Paul Smith grabbed the only goal of the game at Broadhall Way as Second Division Gills proved too strong for the Conference side.

Tranmere 2-0 Motherwell

John Aldridge can be happy with the result of this one: goals from Andy Parkinson and Jason Koumas seeing off the challenge of the Scottish Premier League side.

Watford 7-0 Wealdstone

A young Watford line-up did their pre-season nerves no end of good, rattling seven past non-league opposition.

New boy Mark Williams opened with a fifth-minute goal, 19-year-old striker Tommy Smith grabbed a pair, with Peter Kennedy, Michel Ngonge, Steve Brooker and Lee Johnson also on the scoresheet.



Wolves 1-1 Werder Bremen

Darren Bazeley gave 4,485 Wolves fans a taste of European glory on Tuesday night, but Bogdanovic levelled for the German side.

York 0-3 Sheffield Utd

Paul Devlin grabbed a second-half hat-trick as the Blades overwhelmed York in a dour pre-season game.

Greek trialist Angelos Vilanakis again played for the visitors and impressed all and will be one to watch throughout the season.



West Brom 1-2 Sheffield Wednesday

An early goal from summer-signing Gilles de Bilde — his second in two starts — was followed by Niclas Alexanderson's strike.

That maintained the Owls' 100 percent record in pre-season, but did nothing for Albion's nerves on the day that Denis Smith lost his job as manager.

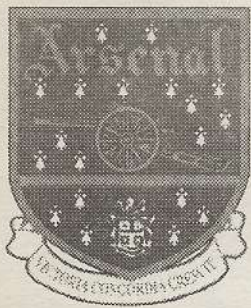
Lee Hughes got the home side's goal, but Paul Raven, whose testimonial it was, missed a penalty 13 minutes from time.



Compiled by

UK

Soccer Weekly



UNITED WINNING STREAK COMES TO AN END



THE CHARITY IS OVER, BRING ON THE SEASON

ARSENAL

2

MAN. UNITED

1

Wembley Stadium, London

Manchester United historic winning streak has come to an abrupt end as Arsenal held onto their Charity Shield title as the top two teams in the country kicked off the 1999/00 football season at Wembley.

their way to another trophy but this time, they fell short and allowed their rivals to notch up the first mental points in the long season ahead.

Indeed, both David Beckham and Nicky Butt, were both fortunate not to receive their marching orders either side of half time.

Beckham, obviously ignorant of the change of tack by referees to crack down on dissent, waded in to ref Graham Barber and then Butt waded rather more physically into Martin Keown.

During the final 45 minutes however Arsenal's foreign legion rose above the bullies and began to play a

wings as the Gunners attempted to feed the 6 foot 4 inch frame of Kanu.

But it was the Swede Fredrik Ljungberg who went closest to scoring when Parlour whipped a low cross across the face of United's six yard box which eluded everyone. The Swede couldn't stretch enough to get a decent contact.

The Champions however were beginning to find their feet. A lapse in concentration at the back by Arsenal who looked vulnerable without Tony Adams, who is still recovering from an operation on a hernia, allowed Andy Cole to race clear. Manninger bravely saved at the striker's feet.

Just before half time Jordi Cruyff, making a rare start for Alex Ferguson's side, had a golden opportunity but couldn't keep his shot down.

Cruyff impressed on his tour of Australia and with the number of injuries that many United players are facing, the former Barcelona star may play a bigger part in this seasons campaign.

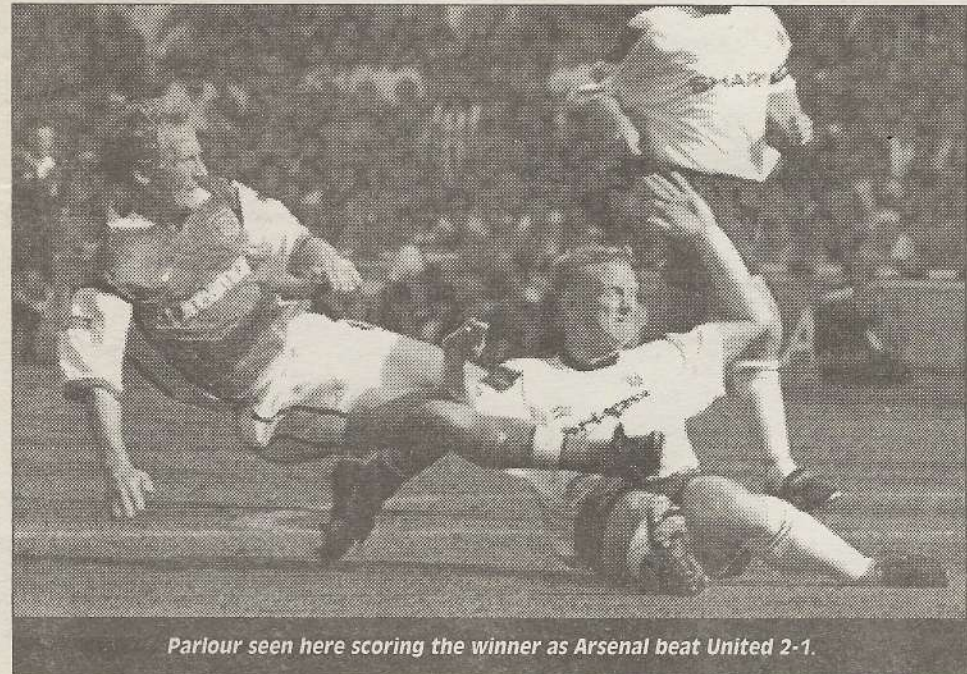
Arsenal began to press more urgently in the second half and Ray Parlour cut inside Dennis Irwin and rifled against the inside of the post.

Moments later Irwin again found himself on the wrong side of an attacker and attempted to use Patrick Vieira's shirt as a leveller. Kanu tucked the penalty away with gifted aplomb.



Arsenal's Kanu (l) takes on United's Stam.

Ten minutes later Arsenal found more space and this time Kanu released Parlour whose shot hit Bosnich's right upright for the second time before nestling in the back of the net.



Parlour seen here scoring the winner as Arsenal beat United 2-1.

But both teams offered a sharpness that suggested that the millennium season is likely to be a cracker as both teams will once again led the race to the English Premiership title.

In a game, which was quite unapologetically, of two halves, Arsenal displayed during the second period a surety of touch and a high quality factor severely lacking in their trophyless season last year.

Nwankwo Kanu cancelled out a David Beckham free kick before Ray Parlour was sent clear by the impressive Kanu to seal Arsenal's ninth Charity Shield success.

Indeed Kanu seemed to relish the freedom that Nikolas Anelka's enforced absence had granted the Nigerian forward.

His awareness and ability to hold the ball up allowed Arsenal the time and space they needed to play.

Conversely Manchester United, mainly through the guile of David Beckham's right boot, attempted to bully

sophisticated passing game that had United mainly on the back foot, something that is rarely seen done to the treble winning side of last season.

Manchester United took a deserved lead in the first half after Beckham hit the underside of the crossbar with a ferocious free kick and Dwight Yorke followed up from one yard out.

The goal was awarded to Yorke but was later given to Beckham.

As temperatures soared over 100 degrees and tempers flared, Beckham and Butt were joined by Patrick Vieira and Martin Keown in the book.

Yet most of the football was pleasantly crisp as both sides attempted to gain the psychological advantage for a season which is likely to go all the way to the last game.

Arsenal began the brighter of the two sides with Silvinho and Parlour causing problems on both



Vieira and Kanu rejoice after the win

Becks to Florence?

Florentina have made a world record bid for England international David Beckham.

Manchester United turned down the bid from the Italian Serie A side, which was believed to have been for £35million, according to the Sunday Mirror in London.

Sir Alex Ferguson immediately rejected the offer, stating Beckham is not for sale and that even £50million would not buy a piece of the player.

Florentina coach Giovanni Trapattoni was quoted in the paper as saying that Argentinian superstar Gabriel Batistuta, a known United fan, had urged him to approach United.

"We did try an audacious bid to bring Beckham to Italy but United had no interest in selling him," said the coach.

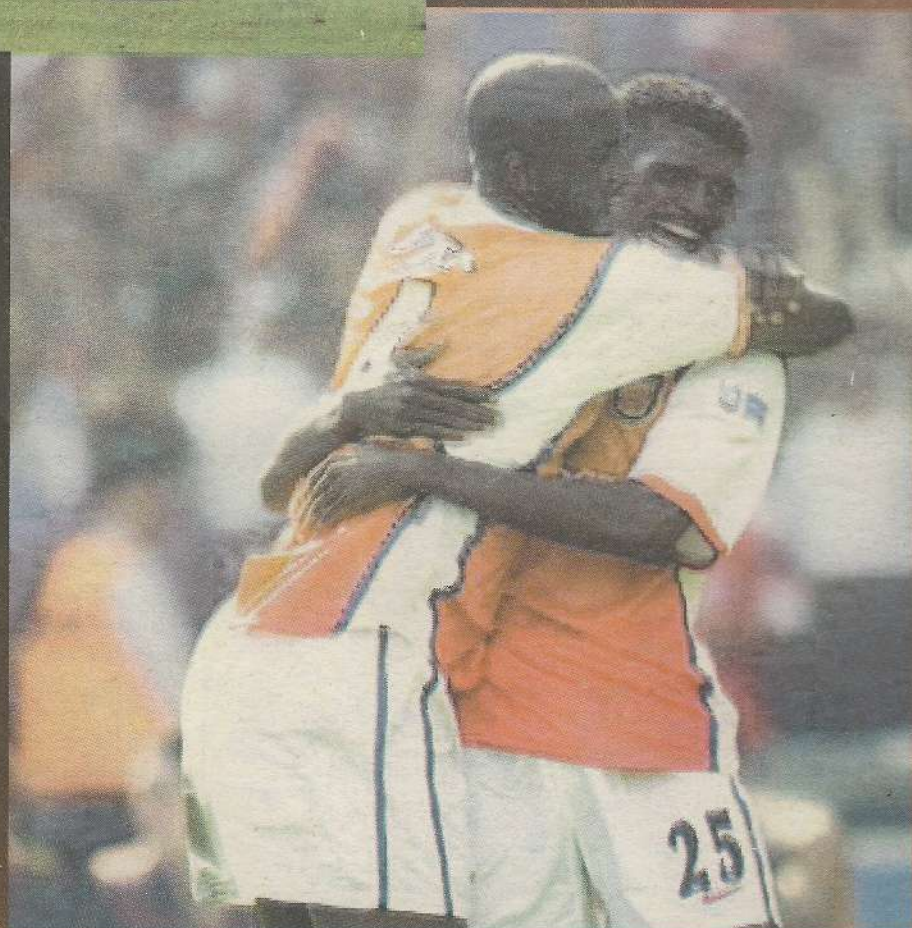
Batistuta was quoted as saying: "I told the club to get Beckham, whatever the cost. With him in the side I would score at least 10 more goals a season because he is the best crosser of the ball in the world. He is the midfielder player I rate above all others."

"If Fiorentina are to win the Italian championship and do well in the Champions League this season, they need to sign players like Beckham who would benefit from playing in Italy," said Batistuta, which is a fair point.



Could 'Mr Spice' David Beckham be bound for Florence?

1999 Charity Shield



Arsenal 2

Manchester United 1